

Bush tries to ring in peace, calls up PM

WASHINGTON: The U.S. has assured India of its cooperation in New Delhi's fight against terrorism even as President George W. Bush urged Pakistan to take "decisive additional measures" against "extremists" blamed for violence against India.

In his first personal effort to prevent any flare-up between the two nations, Mr Bush telephoned Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, where he is vacationing.

President Bush told Mr Vajpayee that the U.S. was "determined to cooperate with India in its fight against terrorism", White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters. In addition, he "reiterated his outrage" over the attack on Parliament House, calling it "a strike against democracy".

In a separate call, the U.S. President urged Gen Musharraf to "take additional, strong, decisive

measures to eliminate the extremists who seek to harm India, undermine Pakistan, provoke a war between India and Pakistan and destabilise the international coalition against terrorism", Mr McClellan said. The spokesman would not elaborate on what Mr Bush meant by asking Gen Musharraf to "eliminate" the extremists.

Mr Bush urged both the leaders to "work to reduce the tension in the region", Mr McClellan said.

Both Mr Vajpayee and Gen Musharraf said they did not want war even as they amassed troops along their borders.

Mr McClellan said President Bush also contacted British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has a visit to the region coming up, to discuss the crisis.

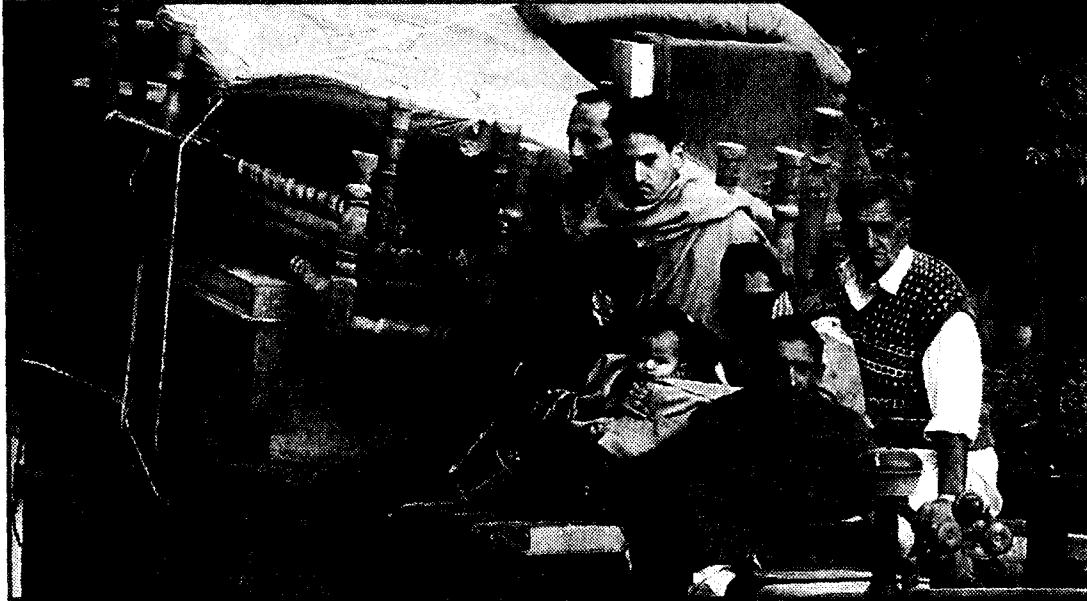
According to the White House, Mr Bush has rarely made personal calls to world leaders, and that too only during times of international crisis. His talk with Mr Vajpayee Saturday was the first since December 13. (Agencies)

TEXAS RANGER



U.S. President George W. Bush calls up British Prime Minister Tony Blair from his ranch in Texas on Saturday.

US urges Pak to take more decisive steps



FUTURE TENSE: A family moves with their belongings from their home on the India-Pakistan border towards Lahore on Sunday, in the face of escalating tensions between the two countries. — AP

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 30 DECEMBER

THE UNITED States on Sunday delivered a sharper message to Pakistan when it asked General Pervez Musharraf to take "decisive additional measures" against the terrorists responsible for the December 13 attack on Parliament.

In a telephone call from his ranch at Crawford in Texas, President Bush told Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee that the US was "determined to cooperate with India in its fight against terrorism." In addition, President Bush "reiterated his outrage" over the attack on Indian Parliament, calling it "a strike against democracy." President Bush's offer of full cooperation in New Delhi's campaign against terrorism came barely a day after the United States gave credits to General Musharraf for "arresting 50 extremists" linked with

activities inside India.

Mr Vajpayee brushed off the US statement and the ministry of external affairs said it had no such information. Given this backdrop, the US' fresh intervention is seen a shot in the arm for New Delhi's diplomatic efforts. It is described by government leaders as an acceptance of its position that there could be no yardsticks for judging terrorism.

US President also placed a call to Gen Musharraf and asked him to "take additional, strong, decisive measures to eliminate the extremists who seek to harm India, undermine Pakistan, provoke a war between India and Pakistan and destabilise the international coalition against terrorism."

Reports from Washington said the US president is also enlisting the support of British Prime Minister Tony Blair for "defusing tensions between India and Pakistan." The British premier is reaching India on January 4.

The support for the Indian position came barely hours after Mr Vajpayee urged world leaders to push Pakistan to take effective steps against terrorism. Addressing the national executive of the BJP, the prime minister said his government will spare no means to tackle Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

France, Iran and Libya have sought firm action by Pakistan against terrorist outfits. French President Jacques Chirac, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and Bhutan's King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk spoke to Prime Minister Vajpayee in the last two days conveying that they viewed the terrorist strike on Parliament as "an attack on India's democracy."

"They all agreed that firm action should be taken by Pakistan against terrorist groups operating from its soil and promoting cross-border terrorism in India," an external affairs ministry spokesperson said.

The Economic Times

31 DEC 2001

US ban means Pak will have to handle the K-word with care

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

THE US move to put Lashkar and Jaish on the Foreign Terrorist Organizations list invokes the US Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, 1996, which has severe provisions against states, groups and individuals that help these organizations.

General Musharraf has until recently been pushing these groups under the umbrella of "freedom fighters" in Kashmir. And the official Pak line has been that it provides "moral and diplomatic" support. But now it will have to watch what it does—and says when it comes to the Lashkar and the Jaish.

For, the Act:

- Sets penalties for knowingly providing, or attempting or conspiring to provide, material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization.
- Gives the President powers to use all necessary means, including covert action and military force, to destroy international infrastructure used by international terrorists.
- Adjusts the Foreign Assistance Act to help "isolate countries



Saeed and Azhar

who support terrorists and to bolster counter-terrorism efforts" in those who oppose them.

■ Use the Arms Export Control Act to prohibit assistance to a country that the President determines and certifies to Congress is not "cooperating fully with US antiterrorism efforts."

■ Under Title II, US federal law is recasted to "expand the circumstances under which foreign governments that support terrorism may be sued for resulting injuries."

■ Title III helps sever terrorists from their sources of financial and material support.

■ Enlarges the scope of action against "assisting in the commission of various terrorist crimes."

■ Makes it illegal for persons in the US or subject to US jurisdiction to provide material support to these terrorist groups

■ Enables US to deny visas to representatives of these groups.

INDIAN EXPRESS

28 DEC 2001

America blocks Lashkar funds

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: President George W. Bush on Thursday responded to India's irritation at the perceived American apathy to the problem of terrorism faced by it by blocking the finances of two Pakistan-based organisations, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Umma Tameer-e-Nau (UTN).

More than the substance of the announcement, which means little considering the outfits have minimal U.S.-related financial dealings, the form and language accompanying the move were clearly aimed at putting Pakistan on notice for its backing of terrorism. It was also meant to mollify India amidst concerns that New Delhi was contemplating a tougher response if the U.S. and the international community did not bear down on Pakistan.

A routine executive decision typically conveyed through a notification took the form of a special Rose Garden event, in part to mark the 100 days since the worst terrorist attack in American history.

Mr Bush prefaced the

announcement with lavish praise of India, saying "the legislature of the world's largest democracy, a nation founded on the principles of freedom of speech, freedom of worship was ruthlessly attacked. "Had the mission succeeded, they would have kidnapped and killed many of India's elected representatives," he said in an obvious

agreement of the Indian assessment of the terrorists' motive.

In a significant acknowledgement, Mr Bush said, "Last week's attack was only the most recent terrorist assault on the institutions of Indian democracy," and recalled the attack on the Srinagar legislature. He also questioned the principle behind the terrorism—described by Pakistan as a "free-

dom movement"—saying the attacks "remind us that whatever grievances or causes the terrorists may cite, their real target is democracy and freedom.

"The U.S. condemns these terrorist attacks against India..American power will be used against all terrorists of global reach," he declared.

'Ban will have no impact'

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The Lashkar-e-Toiba has brushed aside the decision by U.S. President George W. Bush to declare it a "foreign terrorist organisation" and said it will not have any impact on its activities. Asked if it expected any action by Pakistan following the U.S. move, a spokesman said, "We have no offices in Pakistan. All our offices are in Azad Kashmir."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2001 0001

India, U.S. exchange notes on Afghanistan

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, DEC. 19. India and the United States today exchanged notes on ways to smoothen war-ravaged Afghanistan's political and economic transition. 2/12

The discussions were held between the visiting U.S. special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. James Dobbins, and his Indian interlocutors.

Mr. Dobbins, who is here after a visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan, met the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, the National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, the Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, and his Indian counterpart, Mr. S.K. Lambah.

Mr. Lambah and Mr. Dobbins are well acquainted with each other as they worked together in thrashing out with the Afghan Interior Minister, Mr. Yunus Qanooni, the final draft of the Bonn declaration.

Addressing a press conference later in the evening, Mr. Dobbins indicated that post-conflict Afghanistan should also rework its troubled relations with Pakistan. "There is a good deal of history there to be overcome."

In a veiled reference to need for Afghanistan to work out a positive relationship with India and Pakistan, he said that Afghanistan needs to have friendly relations with its "close neighbour" and also the country that has helped it in recent years.

He did not rule out the presence of the Saudi fugitive, Osama bin Laden, and other Al-Qaeeda members either in Afghanistan or Pakistan. The U.S., he said, expected "Pakistan to take responsibility for rounding them up", in case they were present in that country.

In response to a question, Mr. Dobbins said that India could get access to activists of the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Toiba now in Afghan custody given its close ties with Kabul. He declined to comment on a question related to the recent terrorist attack on Parliament House.

The focus of international diplomacy on Afghanistan will revolve around reconstruction, he said. He did not rule out the use of Afghan territory for transiting oil and gas provided impediments were removed.

THE HINDU

20 DEC 2001

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2001

MR. BUSH'S GESTURE TOWARDS INDIA

THE U.S. PRESIDENT, Mr. George W. Bush, has adopted a cautious yet proactive approach to exert political pressure on Islamabad to address India's spiralling security concerns about the activities of some of the Pakistan-encouraged terrorist organisations. This accounts for the measured style and strategic substance of his decision to freeze the assets of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which New Delhi has identified as being one of the two groups responsible for the aborted terrorist attack on Parliament House in New Delhi on December 13. Mr. Bush has not only said nothing about the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the other group on India's radar screen in this context, but also chosen to characterise the LeT itself as a "stateless sponsor of terrorism". Mr. Bush has perhaps drawn a Pakistan-friendly thin line of distinction between his own implicit disapproval of Islamabad's tolerance of the LeT and the general suspicion that at least some elements of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence agency are actually behind the LeT. Any such distinction does not seem to have made much impact on some influential sections of America's opinion-makers who appear to empathise with democratic and secular India over its concerns about how to snuff out externally-encouraged political terrorism. Moreover, Mr. Bush himself has called upon Pakistan, as also India, to take steps to disable the LeT as a functional outfit. He has made an obvious effort to balance his gesture towards India with a formulation designed to avoid ruffling Pakistan's feathers. This explains Mr. Bush's studied reference to Kashmir and the LeT in conjunction, although he takes due cognisance of New Delhi's position that the LeT is linked to the recent terrorist outrage against India's parliamentary democracy.

In all, the semantic efforts of the U.S. President are evidently designed to please both India and Pakistan at this stage in a globalised 'cam-

paigned' against all manifestations of the politics of terror. Relevant to Mr. Bush's calculus is the consideration that the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, is still grappling with the critics of his strategic gamble of supporting the U.S. against the Taliban-Osama axis in Afghanistan in the ongoing anti-terror 'campaign'. Gen. Musharraf's decision has had much to do with his expectation that Mr. Bush will not be disdainful of Pakistan's Kashmir "cause" and "strategic assets" while promoting U.S.-India ties. Mr. Bush should know however that his new attempt at drawing a moral equivalence between India and Pakistan is itself an unwitting zero-sum game that might not humour either country.

More glaring than Mr. Bush's prevarication about the LeT's genesis or its suspected links with sections of the Pakistani establishment is his silence about the status of the JeM which, too, has been implicated in the terrorist strike that enraged India on December 13. As for the LeT itself, America's expectation clearly is that Gen. Musharraf will also feel compelled to move against it within Pakistan, given especially the outfit's reported claims that it has no assets in the U.S. itself. To motivate Gen. Musharraf, Mr. Bush has indicated that the LeT seems determined to undermine the Pakistani leader himself at this time when Islamabad is under American pressure to help in the hunt for the elusive Osama bin Laden. Whether or not the LeT poses such a direct threat to Gen. Musharraf's position, India, too, can advance its own anti-terror cause by taking the international community into greater confidence about the evidence regarding the LeT and the JeM and by presenting the facts in a convincing fashion. It remains to be seen whether New Delhi will feel more at ease to do so now that the Cabinet Committee on Security has welcomed Mr. Bush's latest gesture.

3-15-11-01

Delhi pins hope on US

FROM PRANAY SHARMA
AND SEEMA GUHA

New Delhi, Dec. 19: The Bush administration has assured New Delhi that it is trying to persuade President Pervez Musharraf to act against leaders of the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba — the two terrorist outfits India accuses of being behind last week's terrorist attack on Parliament.

As Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee indicated in Parliament today, Delhi is exhausting diplomatic options before considering harsher steps. Its wish list consists of Pakistan handing over Jaish leader Masood Azhar. Home minister L.K. Advani added two more names

— Dawood Ibrahim, Babai blasts, and Ghazi Baba, supreme commander of Indian operations of Jaish.

But, realising how slim the possibility is of Musharraf agreeing to this, India is prepared to settle for their being rounded up as a visible sign of Islamabad cracking down on terrorist outfits. Arrests of these high-profile wanted men could then be showcased by the government before the home audience impatient for punishment of those responsible for the December 13 attack.

Having ended Pakistan's diplomatic isolation by joining the international coalition for Musharraf to ignore American demands for acting against terrorists operating from Pakistani soil. But the military ruler will choose his course of action carefully since he would not want to appear to be betraying the Kashmir cause.

India kept up the pressure today and kept alive the possibility of military action, with Vaj-

payee asserting that his government was looking at diplomatic as well as "other options".

The Prime Minister reminded the US what India expects from it. "They are asking us to show restraint. When have we not shown restraint?" he asked. "They should advise our neighbours, too."

That appeared to be happening, too. US secretary of state Colin Powell has talked with Musharraf. Gen. Tommy Franks, in charge of America's war in Afghanistan, also called the President.

Powell assured foreign minister Jaswant Singh that steps were being taken by Washington to strengthen the war against global terrorism in the immediate context of the attack on Parliament.

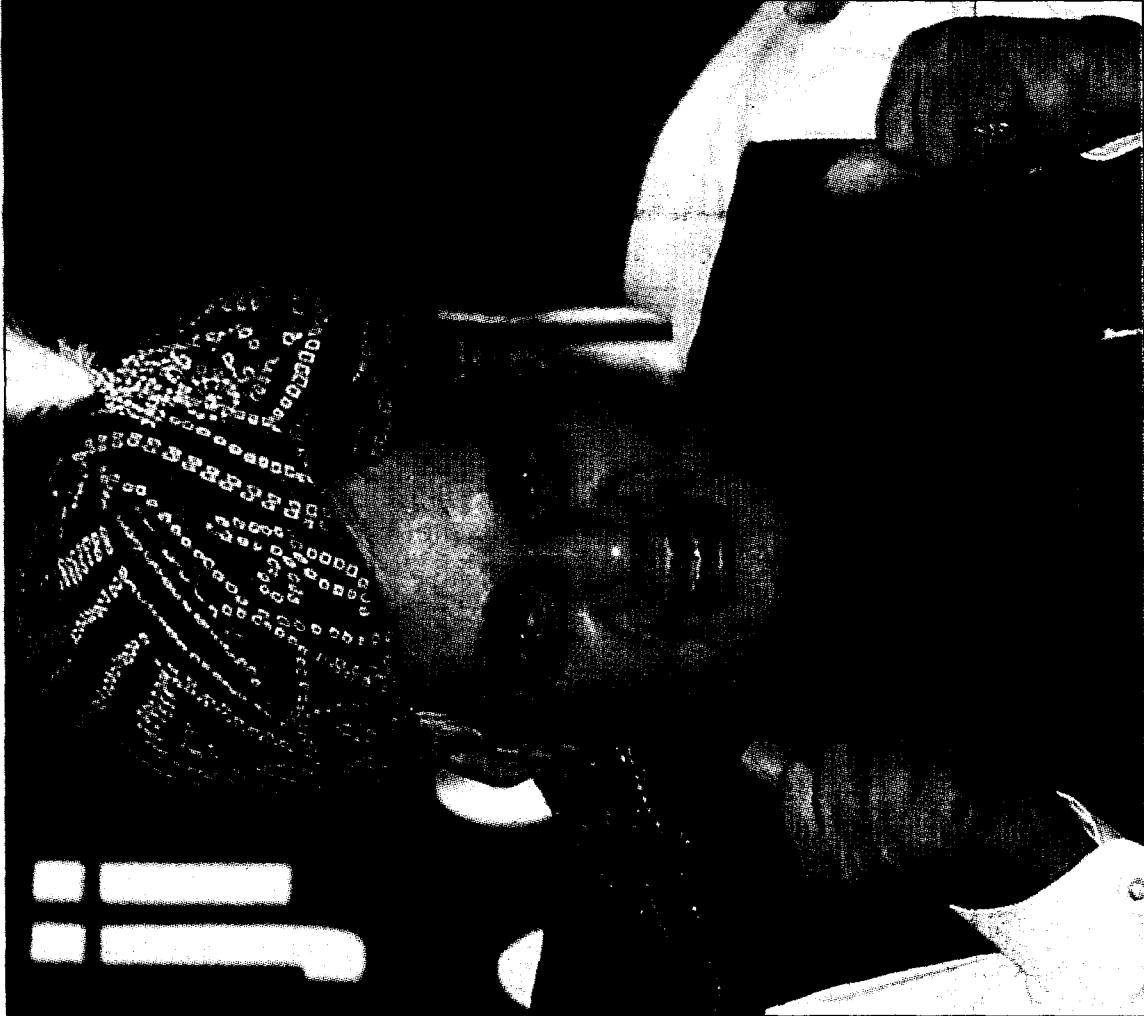
Powell told Singh that some of the leaders of Jaish and Lashkar would figure on America's most wanted criminal list.

Officials here said India would wait for "positive movement" on the part of Pakistan. This wait is expected to continue at least until Christmas. "We will surely pursue the diplomatic option and try and see whether it works. If it doesn't, we will have to pursue other options," a senior South Block official said. Asked what these options are, he replied: "If we talk about the options, it is the surest way of killing them."

Armed action targeted at terrorist infrastructure and camps in Pakistan is one of them.

The Indian establishment is not quite sure how Pakistan is going to react. "Pakistan has never distinguished itself by a predictable response," a senior official in the foreign ministry said. Today, for instance, it officially requested India to agree to a joint probe into the alleged involvement of the ISI and the two

ALL DRESSED UP, BUT NOT FOR A WAR YET



AB Vajpayee sports a turban presented by a minister before a discussion in New Delhi. (AFP)

Pakistan-based militant outfits in the attack.

A PTI report from Islamabad said the Pakistan foreign office informed the Indian high commission of Pakistan's desire to take part in the investigation for an "impartial determination" of evidence. India had earlier re-

jected the offer. Singh told Powell such a move would be counter-productive.

Delhi's assessment of the Bush administration's attitude is that it would be keen on getting Musharraf to do something because of its overwhelming evidence. India had earlier re-

promise Nation safe: she calls, he melts

FROM OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 19: It took just one phone call from Sonia Gandhi — within minutes of the terrorist attack on Parliament — to melt the Prime Minister's heart.

Intervening in a discussion on the December 13 strike in the Rajya Sabha, Atal Bihari Vajpayee today paid a glowing compliment to the leader of the Opposition, which left some of his party colleagues nonplussed.

"I heard about the attack and within minutes, the Opposition leader called me up. She asked me, 'How are you?' Sonia Gandhi was concerned. If the leader of the Opposition shows such concern about the safety of the Prime Minister, then democracy in this land is safe," Vajpayee said.

"It was an incident which influenced me deeply," he added. Vajpayee is not the first BJP leader to praise the Congress president. Before him, human resources development minister Murlidhar Joshi, a known hardliner, had appreciated her support in Parliament.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister was to be in the Rajya Sabha by 11 am — minutes before the terrorists mounted the attack. "But I was delayed by a party MP who kept pleading for a hearing from me," he said.

Sonia had returned home after attending Lok Sabha — both Houses of Parliament were adjourned within 10 minutes of meeting. Barring these two leaders, almost all bigwigs were inside Parliament when the terrorists struck.

Since the attack, treasury benches have been singing the

"unity" refrain. Sonia's gesture strengthened that sentiment, signalling that the Congress — the main Opposition party — was with the government at this critical hour.

The hawks in the ruling party, baying for blood and war in Parliament yesterday, were silenced as the Prime Minister played the dove — even the recriminations against the Opposition were gentle.

"I am the head of a democracy, not an army," Vajpayee said. But he could not resist a dig at former Prime Minister Chandrashekhar, likening him to Arjun in *Mahabharata*, standing off the battlefield reluctant to fight. Referring to his remark that he did not favour a war with Pakistan, Vajpayee said: "War or no war... this is not the question. In what circumstances a war should be fought and whether it is needed or not, is the issue being debated." Nobody wanted a war, he added.

During the discussion, almost all Opposition leaders had advised restraint. To that, the Prime Minister said: "The advice of Opposition leaders for more restraint shall be given due respect." Then came a gentle reminder. "But we must also respect public opinion."

Taking an oblique swipe at his own party men, the Prime Minister said: "It is not a problem if anybody is calling for peace. Nationalism cannot be equated with jingoism."

The acrimony receded with every sentence the Prime Minister uttered. "We will make every effort to prevent war. Every effort will be explored to see how such a confrontation can be avoided," Vajpayee promised.

Powell speaks to Jaswant again

By Atul Aneja

922
W5

NEW DELHI, DEC. 19. For the second day in succession, the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, spoke to the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, over telephone.

The conversations take place in the backdrop of the terrorist attacks on Parliament House and expression at the highest level of India's resolve to counter this menace. While Mr. Powell spoke to Mr. Singh this morning, the U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Robert Blackwill, accompanied by the U.S. special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. James Dobbins, met him later in the evening. The two U.S. officials also met the National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, during the day.

Government sources said that keeping in mind India's concerns, the U.S. is shortly expected to declare the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as well as the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) — the two organisations that are prime suspects in last Thursday's attack on Parliament — as Foreign Terrorist Organisations.

The U.S. has been left in no doubt about the gravity of India's concerns after last week's attack. This was earlier reflected in the conversations between the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal

Behari Vajpayee. Indications from India that it was not ruling out a military option, if required, especially in the light of Pakistani troop mobilisation along the border may have also heightened diplomatic activity between New Delhi and Washington.

20/12

Keeping up the diplomatic momentum, the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism will meet in the second week of January. The U.S. delegation will be led by the State Department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism, Mr. Francis X. Taylor, while the Indian team will be headed by the Joint Secretary (Americas) in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. Jayant Prasad. The LeT and the JeM are expected to be designated Foreign Terrorist Organisations, prior to the JWG meeting.

India is keen to benefit from U.S. surveillance data that may be helpful in locating new terrorist camps as most of the former training strongholds of Islamic extremists in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir extremists have been wound up after the September 11 attacks in the U.S. The JWG, on an earlier occasion agreed to work together on the leads provided by the investigation into the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane IC-814 from Kathmandu to Kandahar in December 1999.

THE HINDU

20 DEC 2001

CONFLICTING AMERICAN SIGNALS CONTINUE

Blackwill: No US call for restraint

Sudesh K Verma
in New Delhi

Dec. 20. — The US ambassador to India, Mr Robert Blackwill, tonight told a BJP delegation that there was no call for restraint from the USA and India was free to defend itself.

Mr Blackwill, at a dinner he hosted for BJP leaders, said he had informed the Bush administration that the entire Indian leadership would have been killed if any of the terrorists had managed to enter Parliament.

Mr Blackwill strongly refuted the charge of double standards against the USA.

He pointed out that India had asked for similar restraint on Israel's part when 30 people were recently killed in bomb explosions in that country.

"You have been extra-sensitive where Muslims are involved either due to your indigenous Muslim population or due to oil interests," he reportedly told the delegation.

In his half-hour address to the BJP members, Mr Blackwill said the USA was clear about its policy that terrorism must be fought at all levels.

He said following the successful US operation against the Taliban, a new situation had cropped up with Al Qaida members fleeing Afghanistan and entering Pakistan.

"We want Pakistan to hand them over to the USA," he said.

He reportedly said the USA had

Bush for restraint

NEW DELHI, Dec. 20. — At a White House ceremony, President Bush today targeted Lashkar, calling it a "stateless sponsor of terror" but again urged India to show restraint.

Meanwhile, reports from Washington alleged a deal between the USA and Pakistan to permit "hot pursuit" of terrorists inside Pakistan. Officials here reacted strongly: "This is just one more example of US doublespeak." — SNS

already asked Pakistan to rein in the terrorist organisations operating from there and to stop supporting cross-border terrorism. Delving further into the 13 December attack, he told them the USA could not possibly ask India to exercise restraint after

such a tragedy, sources said.

Mr Blackwill requested the delegation to listen to President Bush's TV address at 1.30 a.m (IST), claiming it would address India's concerns.

He asked the BJP delegation not to reveal the details of the dinner meeting as it was a sensitive matter and may create problems, sources said.

The delegation members were tight-lipped. Even the BJP spokesperson, Mr Vijay Kumar Malhotra, who was aggressive before the meeting, was silent after it.

Others who attended the meeting were BJP MPs Mr ML Khurana and Mr Kirti Azad, senior leaders Mr TN Chaturvedi, Mr LM Singhvi Gen (retd) Malik and Mr KR Malkani.

BJP general secretary Mr Sunil Shastri was also present.

The delegation apparently had the government's brief not to mince words keeping diplomatic niceties in mind.

The limitations which applied to the government should not restrain the party was the overwhelming sentiment.

The BJP seems to have calculated that this might provide the US the 'correct' understanding of the country's mood.

THE STATESMAN

21 DEC 2001

Now, US sings Pak tune

S Rajagopalan & Agencies
Washington, December 20

IN A sharp turnaround, the US now wants India to produce evidence that the terrorist raid on Parliament was carried out by Pakistan-based outfits, and provide "a better basis" for Gen. Pervez Musharraf to proceed against them.

The State Department yesterday almost echoed the Pakistani view that the information made public by India was not good enough. "There is some information out in public, but we certainly encourage them (India) to complete their investigation and provide whatever information they can," spokesman Richard

Boucher said.

The comment followed Secretary of State Colin Powell's telephone talks with Musharraf and his Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar and came on a day when Powell and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld were all praise for Pakistan's latest instalment of cooperation in capturing al-Qaida fighters pouring in from Afghanistan.

"We have said, and we continue to believe, that India needs to investigate thoroughly. They need to reach firm conclusions on this," Boucher said. He was all praise for Musharraf's "clear", "sound" and "unequivocal" condemnation of the attack as also his "concern about the actions of

some of these groups that have operated in Pakistan".

The US discovery of Pakistan's virtues coincides with ABC news reports of a latest US-Pak deal that would let American troops and Intelligence people launch operations inside Pakistan in their hunt for bin Laden's beleaguered followers.

ABC reported the "secret agreement" citing unnamed sources. There was no official confirmation of the report.

Boucher refused to say whether the Pakistani action of putting terrorist leaders under house arrest would suffice instead of putting them in jail. A correspondent pointed out that the Jaish leader, supposedly

under house arrest in southern Pakistan, was freely making statements to journalists. Boucher said: "I will see if I have something more precise, if we want to start dictating exactly what telephone privileges someone should have."

Not just this, the US is also helping Musharraf rehabilitate himself in the new Kabul regime's eyes. The biggest joke, observers say, is the manner in which Secretary of State Colin Powell got Pakistan — one of the world's latest basket cases — into the donors' process for Afghanistan. Next month, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar will attend the ministerial meeting of donor nations in Tokyo.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 DEC 2001

U.S. offers FBI help to probe attack

By Our Special Correspondent

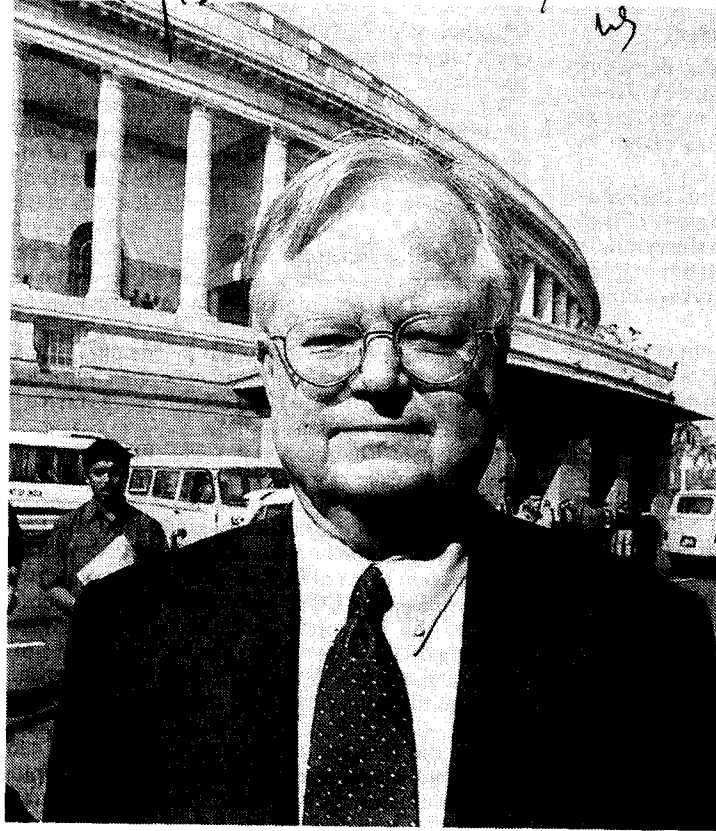
NEW DELHI, DEC. 14. The U.S. has made an "open-ended" offer of any assistance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the probe into Thursday's terrorist strike at the Parliament House complex.

The U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Robert Blackwill, said he had conveyed the same to the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, whom he met for half-an-hour this evening.

Talking to presspersons after meeting Mr. Advani at the North Block office of the Home Ministry, Mr. Blackwill said it was up to India to consider the proposal. The terrorist attack on Parliament was similar to that on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. "In that context, I have given to Mr. Advani a transcript of a video of Osama bin Laden which was released in Washington yesterday."

The U.S. Ambassador said there was no doubt that Osama and his associates had planned the attack on the U.S. and added the video showed the "depth of evil that is unprecedented."

Describing his meeting with the Home Minister as "good", Mr. Blackwill said he had visited Parliament and watched the proceedings in the Lok Sabha on Friday to "express my Government's solidarity with the elected representatives of India". Both



The U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Robert Blackwill, at the Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday. — Photo: Shanker Chakravarty

the U.S. and India had faced terrorism from various sources around the world, he said, adding that the two countries were to-

gether in the global struggle against terrorism.

"The tragic event that occurred yesterday was no different in its

objective from the terror attacks in the U.S. on September 11," he said. Later, Mr. Blackwill also met the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes.

State Dept. condemns attack

PTI reports from Washington:

Describing the terrorist strike on Parliament as an attack on all democracies of the world, the U.S. State Department today said, "We strongly condemn the outrageous terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament."

No cause can justify the deliberate targeting of civilians. This brutal assault on the heart of Indian democracy is an attack on all democracies as well as an attempt to undermine the efforts of those seeking regional peace and stability." "We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of the victims of this attack as well as our condolences to India, which has suffered many terrorist attacks over the years," the statement from the office of the spokesman of the State Department said.

"The Secretary (of State, Gen. Colin) Powell spoke with Foreign Minister (Mr. Jaswant) Singh this morning to express our condolences and our determination to cooperate with India in its fight against terrorism," the statement added.

THE HINDU

15 DEC 2001

India, U.S. to widen military-to-military ties

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, DEC. 18. Military-to-military relations with the United States will be widened in five specific areas to begin with. Bulk of the initial cooperation will be in the form of joint exercises, involving the armed forces of the two countries. HD-13

These measures will be further discussed between the armed forces of the two countries, the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, said in the Lok Sabha today. 19/12

Mr. Fernandes was replying to a question on whether India and the U.S. were going to hold military exercises. He was also asked to provide details of the proposed bilateral cooperation.

The measures under consideration included training for combined humanitarian lift, combined special operations training and small unit ground and air exercises.

The two Navies would exchange personnel and undertake

familiarisation with systems, Mr. Fernandes said. Combined training exercises between the U.S. Marines and corresponding Indian forces, were also being planned.

As regards cooperation with China, Mr. Fernandes said India welcomed the invitation to senior military officers to attend courses at the National Defence University in Beijing.

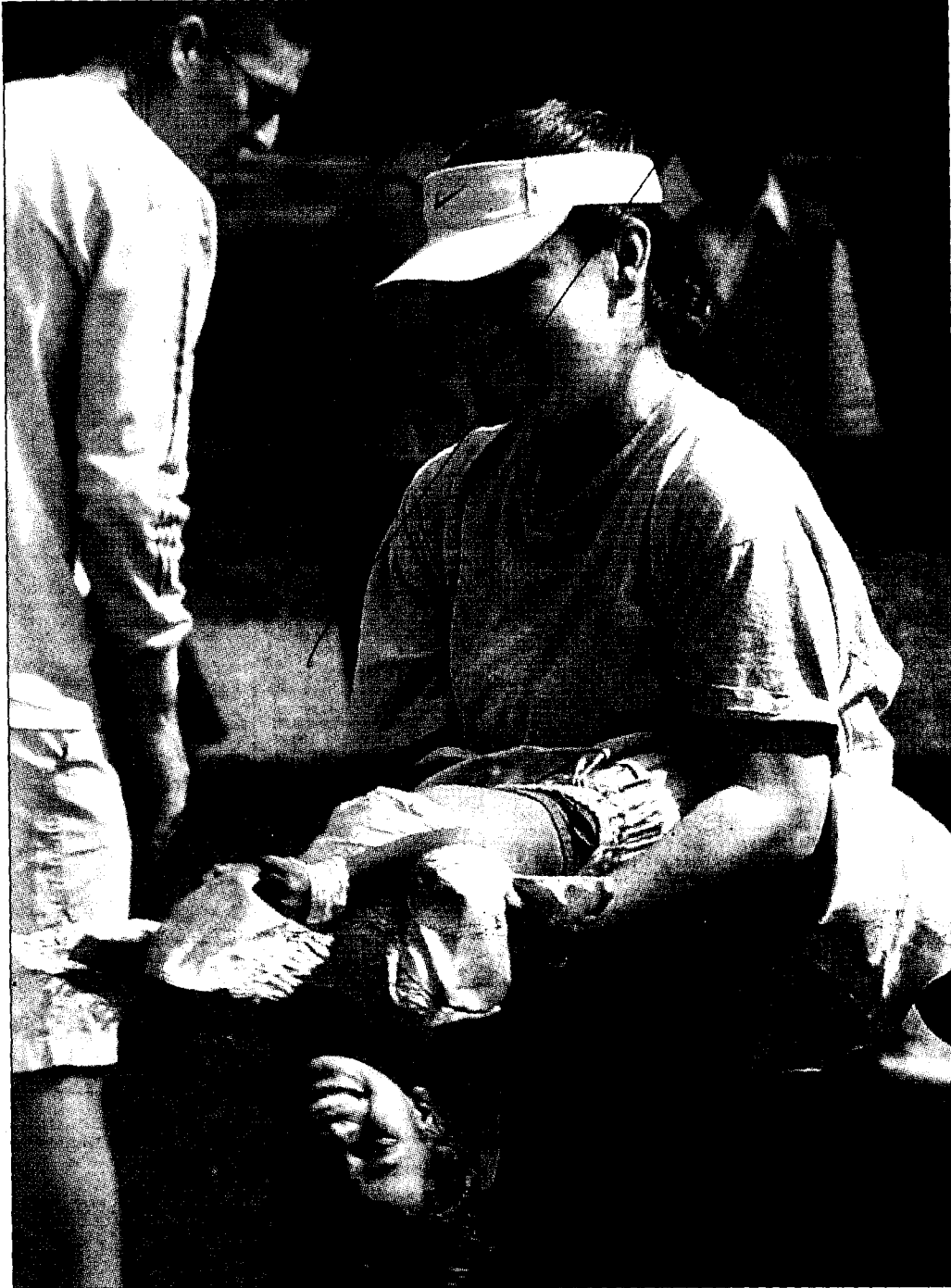
Revised version of NCERT textbooks through Net soon

NEW DELHI, DEC. 18. The Human Resource Development Minister, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, today said the revised version of the NCERT textbooks will soon be made public through the Internet.

"The entire revised syllabus of the NCERT will be put on the Internet after the panel of experts completes the revision," he said at a function here. — PTI

US sign for Delhi face-saver

9th Dec 01 19142



US naval officer Patty Perez plays with a street child at the Salaam Balak shelter for street children in Mumbai. Crew members from the USS Okane and USS Antietam visited the shelter to play with the children and help repaint it. (AFP) ■ Report on Page 8

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Dec. 17: The Bush administration, patting itself on the back for the conduct of the treacherous war against terrorism in Afghanistan so far, believes that it has the situation between India and Pakistan fully under control.

Diplomats across the board here have sat up following secretary of state Colin Powell's unambiguous assertion yesterday that the equation between South Asia's biggest neighbours following the attack on India's Parliament is not yet dangerous.

Powell, the Bush administration's top-most official to speak on record so far about last week's terrorist outrage in New Delhi said on NBC's *Face the Nation* programme that the situation between India and Pakistan "has the potential of becoming very dangerous". He, however, conceded that the relationship "is very tense".

The secretary's assertion is a landmark departure from the position of successive administrations here in the last 10 years.

From Bush Senior's presidency through Bill Clinton's two terms, Americans have been extremely nervous about India and Pakistan even sneezing in the direction of each other, fearing a military escalation and an eventual nuclear conflagration.

There is speculation in knowledgeable circles here that Powell's calm may be the result of Indian assurances conveyed to US ambassador Robert Blackwill that New Delhi will not act precipitously against Islamabad.

Powell pointed out that "Prime Minister (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee, made it clear that he was allowing some time to pass in order to get a reaction from the Pakistani government" on the action it proposes to take against terrorists operating across the border.

The secretary balanced this with a categorical assertion that

"the Pakistani government is taking some steps now".

US intelligence officials here and in Islamabad have been sharing their information with the American media that the Lashkar-e-Toiba has already shut down its offices in the Pakistani capital.

Presumably at America's prodding, signboards at a Lashkar training camp in Lahore have also been taken down. These officials could not, however, confirm whether terrorist training was continuing in the compound, shorn of any publicity.

Significantly, Powell's statement implied that if India took action that solely affected terrorist outfits such as the Lashkar and did not draw the state of Pakistan into a conflict, the US would look the other way.

"I think the Indian government clearly has the legitimate right of self-defence", he told NBC. "But I think we have to be very careful in this instance because if, in the exercise of that right of self-defence we have states going after each other, we could create a much more difficult situation, a situation that could spiral out of control."

Advani caution

New Delhi, Dec. 17 (PTI): Home minister L.K. Advani today said the government would consider an "appropriate response" to the December 13 terror strike on Parliament for which the nation should be prepared.

Without elaborating on the response and its timing, he said it would be considered jointly by the political and military establishments. "The whole nation should be prepared and understand," he said, addressing a gathering after inaugurating an ayurvedic hospital here.

"*Adheerta se kaam nahin chale* (impatience will not do)," Advani said, adding that even the US did not respond immediately after the September 11 terrorist strikes.

In condoning Israeli attacks against Palestinians, the US has always maintained that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is acting in self-defence and only against terrorists who seek the destruction of Israel. In any case, the US does not recognise the state of Palestine.

Behind such a rational balancing of competing US interests in South Asia is also the benefit of doubt that the Bush administration is prepared to extend to General Pervez Musharraf.

The Americans believe the Pakistani leopard has achieved the impossible of changing its spots. Powell said: "I think it is important to note that President Musharraf immediately condemned the attacks in New Delhi and said that he is taking action against the two organisations that have been tentatively identified as terrorist organisations that might have been responsible for this" attack on Parliament.

For the time being, flowing from the miscalculation that the rest of the world is ready to forget their problems for the sake of America's war against terrorism, the administration is hoping that India and Pakistan, being members of the US-led coalition against terror will cooperate with each other.

"We are encouraging both sides to share information with each other and to come together in this campaign against terrorism and not escalate it to a level where it could get out of control."

Such advice, privately delivered in Islamabad before Powell went public, is behind Pakistan's suggestion that it should be involved in the investigations into the attack on Parliament.

The administration's bottom-line is clear. It no longer minds the rhetoric or even some very limited action so that Vajpayee could save his face.

"What we don't want to do is to see the rhetoric get so ratcheted up that the rhetoric then is followed by action, which lets the whole situation go out of control," Powell concluded.

THE TELEGRAPH

18 DEC 2001

US to hasten defence supplies to India

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 4 DECEMBER

IN BRICK and mortar terms, India and the United States set out a roadmap for a long-term "defence supply relationship" as decks were cleared for the supply of weapon-locating radars, LCA engines, avionics systems and jet trainers. In strategic terms, however, the two-day India-US defence policy group (DPG) saw the US taking an important philosophical step — perhaps for the first time in decades, the US is viewing India not through the prism of its non-proliferation concerns but, as the US undersecretary for policy in the Pentagon Douglas Feith pointed out, "as a country that has interests and capabilities not only in the region but globally." This was clarified in the joint statement which specified that India and the US shared strategic interests in Asia and beyond. In the current international context this will include joint efforts in counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation. Mr Feith

th took the scope of Indo-US cooperation in defence issues from the merely bilateral to "shaping the decisions of other countries" in the above issues. The reason this is a giant leap forward is that the US, instead of clubbing India as just another nuclear proliferator, will be actually working with India "in joint counter-proliferation efforts."

Apart from cooperation on

counter-terrorism, India's support to Bush's new strategic framework means that there will be increased cooperation in a whole new field: counter-proliferation. While the discussions on missile defence, Mr Feith said, reviewed the US-Russian strategic framework and the Bush-Putin discussions at the Crawford meetings, the joint efforts in counter-proliferation, he said, will

include "export controls, intelligence on proliferation and interdiction and border controls."

The important part, he stressed, was a consonance between US and India that missile defence was an "important contribution to strategic stability" and that contrary to some opinions, would "make the world a safer place."

According to the joint statement, the US has already approved a number of licenses for export licenses for military equipment for India after the waiver of sanctions. These relate to weapons locating radars. But the US has also promised to speed up a "review of India's other acquisition priorities including engine and systems for the LCA, radars, multi-mission maritime aircraft, components for jet trainers and high-performance jet engines." A security cooperation group will meet in February-March to manage the defence trade aspect between the two countries.

This is only one of an intensified series of high level meetings of the two defence establishments.

7 cos bag defence deal from US

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 4 DECEMBER

PAVING THE way for transfer of technology in the defence sector, the United States, on Tuesday, approved export licenses to seven Indian firms for procuring state-of-the-art equipment, including weapon locating radars. The US decision, the first major one to come after sanctions were imposed against India after the 1998 Pokharan tests, is now expected to revive defence equipment supply from the US. A separate Security Co-operation Group is also being established between the two countries, which will primarily provide assistance in licensing and sales process in the future. This group will meet in February next. The applications for export licenses for seven firms have been approved by the US departments of state and defence.

The Economic Times

- 5 DEC 2001

Deal to sign agreement for keeping each other's secrets

India, America at military altar

FROM SUJAN DUTTA

New Delhi, Dec. 4: India and the US will resume joint military exercises and sign "in the very near future" the general security of military information agreement, defence policy planners of the two countries have decided.

The agreement lays down that visiting military officers of both sides should ensure confidentiality of information on military systems and that neither side should reveal to a third country bilateral military information. Delhi's reluctance to sign the pact for almost a decade was one of the impediments to US military sales to India.

An immediate consequence of the two-day Indo-US Defence Policy Group meeting that ended here today is Washington's decision to allow seven companies to sell to India equipment that were either frozen or impounded under the post-Pokhran II sanctions. The US has also invited Indian military representatives to briefings on its National Missile Defence System.

The policy group, meeting for only the third time since it was

formed in 1996, has laid out a roadmap for military-to-military cooperation and put in place inter-services groups and technical committees that will monitor and execute technology sales and transfers, exercises and training programmes.

The group is the apex body for bilateral military ties. It is co-chaired by the Indian defence secretary and the US under-secretary for defence policy. A Joint Technical Group that will dwell on military sales and technical cooperation; a Military Cooperation Group that will, among other issues, dwell on the agreement; and Executive Steering Groups of the two armies, navies and air forces will meet separately in the first quarter of next year, ahead of the next policy group sitting in May 2002.

"Both delegations reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation between India and the US. They committed themselves to increasing substantially the pace of the high-level policy dialogue, military-to-military exchanges and other joint activities," defence secretary Yogendra Narain and US undersecretary Douglas Feith said in a joint statement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 ►

THE TELEGRAPH

5 DEC 2001

Indo-U.S. defence talks today

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, DEC. 2. After more than a decade of tentative efforts, India and the United States are now getting ready to unveil this week the road map to a robust defence partnership.

Senior officials from the Defence Ministry and the Pentagon will begin two days of talks here tomorrow to kick-start the on-again, off-again defence engagement between the two countries since the mid-1980s. The talks take place within the framework of the bilateral Defence Policy Group (DPG) set up nearly seven years ago.

The DPG is likely to examine the growing convergence of political interests in the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific regions, outline a broad agenda for cooperation between the armed forces of the two nations, and explore the prospects for enhanced sharing of defence technologies. The U.S. delegation is being led by Under-Secretary of Defence for Policy, Mr. Douglas Feith, who arrived here this morning. The Indian team will be headed by Mr. Yogendra Narain, Defence Secretary. At their meeting in Washington last month, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, directed the two defence establishments to intensify bilateral cooperation.

The Bush Administration's decision to lift sanctions imposed after India's nuclear tests in May 1998 cleared the last political hurdle to cooperation in the sensitive defence arena.

The DPG is the apex body to define and coordinate defence cooperation between the two countries and is led by civilian officials in the defence headquarters. At the DPG, the two sides are likely to exchange views on the current fluid security environment of Asia and the Persian Gulf regions and identify a set of common strategic objectives.

The DPG is expected to give broad directions to the services on deepening military-to-military cooperation. The nuts and bolts of this interaction — in the form of joint exercises, training and operations — will be worked out by the joint Steering Groups of the two armies, navies and air forces.

The two sides are also likely to look at increasing the transfers of military equipment and technology.

The U.S. is ready to renew the supply of all the items in the pipeline when sanctions were imposed. These include the GE 404 engines for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), spares for Navy's Sea King helicopters and Sea Harrier jets, gun-locating radars, and cooperation in the development of flight control systems for the LCA. Besides seeking resumption of cooperation in these areas with some possible modifications, India is likely to look at purchase of military equipment from the U.S. The three services have been working out lists of items of interest.

India has had a special interest in acquiring advanced defence technology systems from the U.S. but was constrained by the severe American restrictions on technology transfer. The Bush Administration is said to be far more favourable than its predecessor in transferring defence and dual-use technologies to India. The extent of change in the American attitude will be evident at a meeting of the Joint Technical Group (JTG) on the sidelines of the DPG. The JTG brings together officials of the defence research and production establishments on both sides and operates under the political guidance of the DPG.

An important obstacle to more intensive arms transfer relationship is also likely to be removed at the earliest. The two sides are all set to wrap up an agreement on ensuring the secrecy of military information shared between the two establishments.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which has been under consideration for more than a decade is likely to be clinched in the near future with both sides agreeing to reciprocal visits to each other's installations.

Attempts to structure bilateral defence cooperation goes back to mid-1980s, when Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were at the helm in India. The end of the Cold War opened the doors for more cooperation, but differences on the nuclear issue held the two sides back. The conditions for a solid defence partnership now appear right with an Administration in Washington that is strongly committed to a new relationship with New Delhi. On the Indian side, there is a slow but certain recognition of the need to shed its long-standing military isolationism.

THE HINDU

3 DEC 2001

Warm-up for US military ties

FROM SUJAN DUTTA

New Delhi, Dec. 3: The apex body of Indian and US defence officials met today for the first time since the Buddha smiled — the last Pokhran nuclear tests — with the Americans holding out the prospect of wide and intensive military cooperation if an agreement that prevents sharing of military secrets with third countries were signed.

A US delegation led by undersecretary of state for defence policy Douglas Feith told the Indian team headed by defence secretary Yogendra Narain the signing of the General Security of Military Information Agreement will pave the way for heightened military cooperation.

Neither side expects the agreement to be clinched at the two-day defence policy group (DPG) talks that began here today. At the same time, neither believes there is an insurmountable hurdle to greater military cooperation.

"Let's get three things clear — first, the DPG has been revived; second, the agreement is not conditional but we are closer to it than ever before and third, our discussions in this meeting have been on a range of subjects, have gone beyond the exploratory and into specifics," a defence ministry source said.

"The talks being held with Douglas Feith and his delegation will establish the links between the two countries from the standpoint of military to military co-operation and training and various educational opportunities and other aspects of the relationship," an official source said.

The signing of the agreement is not conditional for joint military exercises, procurements and training up to a certain level. The agreement — which the US insists on signing with any country before entering into a "deep" military understanding — has been raised by the US in its defence-related talks with India for about a decade now. For the last five years, though, such talks at the DPG level have remained frozen.

Among the reasons for India to tread cautiously on signing the agreement is its traditional military relationship with Russia, the CIS countries and, more recently, France, Israel and South Africa. So far, for India, defence procurements from these countries have proven to be cheaper than imports from the US. The agreement bans sharing of military information with third countries.

Feith said the talks were "positive". The delegations may issue a joint statement tomorrow.

In the two sessions today, the Indian side said since the US had lifted the sanctions, it should release the equipment for combat aircraft impounded by Washington after the nuclear tests.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

4 DEC 2001

India and US for Intelligence tie-up

Jaideep Mazumdar
Kolkata, December 8

AN INTELLIGENCE-sharing system between India and the US will be institutionalised within the next couple of weeks.

The Intelligence wings of the Army, Navy and Air Force will merge to form the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) to interact closely and regularly with the US armed forces' Intelligence.

Defence Secretary Yogendra Narain told *Hindustan Times* that a formal announcement would be made by the end of this month. "Initially, the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) would be the nodal agency to share Intelligence with its

counterpart in the US," said Narain. "But to make this mechanism effective, we will be integrating the Intelligence wings of the three services into a DIA."

Formation of the DIA would help streamline Intelligence-gathering and sharing the inputs with security agencies within the country as well.

Narain said that Indo-US relations have entered a whole new era. "India and the US are now strategic partners. We will sign the general security of military information (GSMI) agreement very soon and this will cement our ties with the US. But this will not affect our traditional ties with Russia."

Narain had led the Indian del-

legation at the two-day Indo-US defence policy group that met in New Delhi earlier this week. The DPG — the apex body of India and US defence officials—met earlier this week for the first time since Pokhran II in May 1998. The US delegation was led by undersecretary of state for defence policy Douglas Feith.

"Feith said that since India is a mature democracy with a strong and independent judiciary and media, it would be beneficial for both the countries to cement their ties," said Narain.

The signing of the GSMI agreement, which the US insists on as a precursor for closer military and strategic ties, would immediately clear the way for

sale of sophisticated defence equipment to India. "We are hoping to soon get weapon-locating radars, highly sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment and other hardware that the US sells only to very close allies," Narain said.

"The US will also share information on its National Missile Defence System and has already lifted the post-Pokhran II ban on seven companies selling defence hardware to India. These companies are to sell engines and navigation systems for our Light Combat Aircraft, multi-mission maritime aircraft, components for the Advanced Jet Trainer and very high performance jet engines."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

- 9 DEC 2001

India-US joint naval exercises from Dec. 15

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 8: India and the United States will conduct joint naval exercises from December 15.

The search and rescue exercise, in which two Indian naval warships, a Coast Guard and a US naval aircraft will take part, will be the first such exercise since the US lifted sanctions on India. The exercises will be conducted in the Arabian Sea.

The Indian naval authorities expect the participation of US naval warships currently engaged in the Afghan war as the war is expected to be over by then. It is also being expected that naval forces of other countries like Maldives and Sri Lanka will also participate in the exercises, giving it a wider dimension.

This will make it the first of its kind since 1997.

The joint exercises will be followed by a meeting of the Indo-US military steering group of the three services.

The group will plan bigger joint inter-services exercises, on land

and sea.

The joint naval exercises follow the visits of a series of top brass from the US defence forces to India in the last one-and-a-half months.

The visits started with that of the US defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, in the first half of November. This was followed by a visit by the chief of the US Pacific Fleet, Admiral Dennis C. Blair, who had hinted during his interaction with the media that joint exercises by the two sides was a matter of days and weeks, not months and years.

The most recent defence interaction between the two sides was the recently-concluded meet of the Indo-US Defence Policy Group, where major decisions were taken pertaining to defence cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides had also agreed that the executive steering group of the three services will meet before the end of February to plan and review military-to-military cooperation and oversee implementation of the visits, exercises and training programmes.

THE ASIAN AGE

- 9 DEC 2001

India, U.S. to resume naval exercises

By Sandeep Dikshit

NEW DELHI, DEC. 8. India and the United States will resume their Pokhran-interrupted military-to-military cooperation next week with joint naval exercises in the Arabian Sea.

Planning for the complex "search and rescue" exercises began about four months ago but the formal clearance was given only after the successful completion of the joint Defence Policy Group (DPG) talks held here last week.

The DPG is the apex body to chisel and harmonise defence cooperation between the two countries. It is led by senior civilian officials in the defence headquarters.

The joint exercises will be followed by a meeting of the Indo-U.S. military steering group of the three services which will chart out the holding of bigger joint inter-services exercises on land and sea. The meeting of the steering group attended by senior military officers of both countries invariably succeeds the DPG. It defines the broad interaction agreed upon by civilian officials of the DPG. Sources said the three-day joint exercise beginning December 15 will involve two Indian naval warships, a coast

guard and an American naval aircraft. Smaller navies from several neighbouring countries including Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius will be in attendance.

The exercises are likely to be supervised from the giant aircraft carrier, USS Carl Vinson, currently docked in Mumbai after taking part in the U.S.-led operations against the Taliban in Afghanistan. With the military operations in Afghanistan virtually over, more U.S. naval warships are expected to join the exercises.

The last U.S. aircraft carrier in the vicinity was the USS Enterprise which had positioned itself in the Bay of Bengal three decades ago during the liberation movement in Bangladesh (then East Pakistan).

Analysts view the joint exercises as a new attempt by both countries to build a substantive military partnership in Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

The DPG also visualises transfer of military equipment and technology from the U.S. including GE 404 engines and flight control systems for the much-delayed light combat aircraft, spares for the Navy's grounded Sea King helicopters and Sea Harrier jets and gun-locating radars.

THE HINDU

US copter hovers near Kalpakkam N-plant

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, Nov. 27. — A helicopter from *USS John Young*, docked at Chennai port, flew near the city for more than two hours yesterday without permission from the Air Force or Naval Maritime authorities.

The chopper came close to Kalpakkam atomic power station on the city's outskirts.

USS John Young, with two choppers on board, arrived here around 11 a.m. yesterday for refuelling and also for the rest and recreation of those aboard.

The Centre has ordered a probe. Sources said the Airports Authority of India's National Airports Division has submitted an interim report to the Centre, saying the chopper didn't establish radar contact with the city's air traffic control even after it was alerted by the latter. The reconnaissance aircraft didn't identify itself or provide any information to the defence or civil authorities.

The chopper flew two hours and 47 minutes, at 5,000 feet over Bay of Bengal and 60 nautical miles east of Chennai, in the wee hours. The NAD has raised serious objections because the chopper could have caused a catastrophe if other aircraft had flown the airspace at that time.

Officials said had they been informed about the chopper's movements, they would have alerted other aircraft to avoid the route.

Recently, a study had shown that the air-traffic between south-east Asia and the West is the heaviest — 100

■ See COPTER: page 8

THE STATESMAN

COPTER:

2574 57-8
(Continued from page 1)

aircraft per hour - from 9 p.m. to the early hours.

The NAD also cited an aeronautical information publication, issued by the director-general of civil aviation, which says that according to International Civil Aviation Standards, any aircraft within 60 nautical miles of the Indian airspace should inform the authorities concerned.

The chopper was spotted by an air traffic controller around 3 a.m. yesterday, when he was monitoring the surveillance radar. It was seen "hovering close to the high-security Kalpakkam atomic power station".

The US consulate here, however, said the chopper was on a "routine training flight". Mr Indran Amirthanayagam, media spokesman said: "The training flight is necessary for maintaining pilot proficiency." The Indian civil and military authorities had sought information about the flight and appropriate US authorities were probing the case, he said.

The *USS John Young* commander, Geoffrey T Pack, told journalists on board the ship that the copter had not violated any rules. Did the copter fly without permission? Commander Pack said: "We had provided significant information about our helicopter operations to the right people. I'm not aware of any violation... It was part of a routine scheduled helicopter operation." He said he had discussed the issue yesterday with Captain Nelson, the US naval attaché in New Delhi. "We operate under all prescribed directions. We're continuing this operation."

Were there sophisticated cameras on the chopper? Commander Pack said: "I wouldn't make any assumptions on that."

A foreign ministry spokesman said the matter "will be taken up with the US authorities concerned," SNS adds from Delhi. The CPI-M has asked the Centre to "immediately halt" its decision to allow the US warships, participating in the Afghan war, docking and refuelling at Indian ports. The politburo said: "Rest and recuperation would mean... an increase in prostitution and other vices..."

THE STAFFORD

28 NOV 2001

Powell renews his call for Indo-Pak talks on Kashmir

WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Colin Powell said India is a "natural ally" of the United States and renewed his call for an Indo-Pakistan dialogue on Kashmir. Powell, during his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday, also talked of Washington's improved relationship with Pakistan that would "grow and thrive" in the years ahead.

"Our improved relationship (with Islamabad) is not just a temporary spike but as a result of the actions taken by Pakistan over the previous five weeks, the beginning of a strengthened relationship that will grow and thrive in the years ahead," he said. Describing New Delhi as a "natural ally" of the U.S., Powell said in India, he found strong support (for the war against terrorism) from Prime Minister Vajpayee and foreign minister Jaswant Singh "who are anxious to do more".

"They are very anxious to be part of the humanitarian (aid) going into Afghanistan," he said. Powell said America's relations

with India and Pakistan are not a "zero sum game where if one benefits, the other loses".

"We can have solid relations with both. We want both relations to go forward in a positive manner and, hopefully, create conditions for a dialogue between the two sides on the issue of Kashmir," he



Colin Powell

said. During testimony, Powell did not specifically refer to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's characterisation of militancy in Kashmir as "freedom struggle" or India's demand that for any dialogue to be useful, Islamabad must end its cross-border terrorism in Kashmir.

However, in an answer to a question by Senator Richard Lugar about his definition of terrorism, Powell said "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter."

It is easy, he said, to identify Osama bin Laden who represents no country and no religion and is an invader in Afghanistan as a terrorist or to label as terrorist some of the groups in Colombia. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

7 00 1

Musharraf warns India

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 22. - General Pervez Musharraf today told India to "stop threatening" Pakistan with war.

"We'll not be intimidated by India," the Pakistani President told PTV in a pre-recorded interview. Warning India against being "adventurist" and asking it not to take political advantage of the Afghan situation, he said: "We should have no hopes from the US-led coalition to support us (in case of war with India). We have our means to defend ourselves... We will teach them (Indians) a lesson."

Gen Musharraf said: "India should be under no misunderstanding... it should avoid being adventurist... India will be paid back in the same coin." Speaking on Kashmir, he said

the "freedom struggle" in Kashmir, sectarian strife in Pakistan and terrorism in Afghanistan should be treated differently. The disputes in Kashmir, Chechnya, Palestine and Kosovo are political and should be resolved politically.

"It's high time the Indian leadership realises that a freedom struggle is on in Kashmir, solve it politically and sit with Pakistan for this," he said. "Indulgence in such rhetoric wouldn't serve any purpose and would rather cause damage."

Justifying Pakistan's joining the USA-led anti-Taliban campaign, Gen. Musharraf said the Kashmir "cause" would have been a different story had Pakistan not joined the international coalition. "With the developments across the LoC..., would any decision

other than the one to join the campaign have been in Pakistan's interest?" he said. "Think of the scenario when the international coalition would be against us with India on their side. But now, we have no threat to our strategic assets and they are safe."

Asked what role the USA could play if India chose to attack Pakistan, he said: "We believe in our own strength and we shouldn't expect others to help us in defending our country."

On the spate of anti-government protests, he said there were a few "extremist elements" opposing his government and that the vast majority supported his decisions. Allaying fears that the USA would station its troops permanently in Pakistan, he said: "Americans wouldn't permanently stay here and I guarantee that."

THE STATESMAN

23 OCT 2001

Jaswant discusses Afghanistan with Straw

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 19. India has begun intensive discussions with Russia, the United Kingdom and France with a view to establishing a post-Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, held talks with the Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. V. Trubnikov, while the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, met with his British counterpart, Mr. Jack Straw, today. The two leaders spoke for nearly 20-minutes, the spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry told presspersons.

As part of on-going consultations on Afghanistan, Mr. Singh had spoken to French Foreign Minister, Mr. Hubert Vedrine, on Thursday.

Meanwhile, India termed a Pakistani media report about the prospects of a second summit meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in New York next month as "purely hypothetical". Some reports had talked of the possibility of the two leaders meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly session.

Mr. Vajpayee has accepted an invitation from the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, for a visit to Washington on November 9. The

spokesperson said preparations were continuing for the visit and "we are approaching it as an important visit".

India also dismissed Pakistan's suggestion on nuclear restraint, which were "India-centric". These were old proposals and there was nothing new in them. It may be recalled that Pakistan's Ambassador in the U.N. at Geneva, Mr. Munir Akram, had proposed an eight-point agenda on restraint and prevention of the use of nuclear weapons in the region. The two countries established norms on this issue during Mr. Vajpayee's Lahore visit.

New SC judge sworn in

By Our Legal Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 19. Mr. Justice Arijit Pasayat was today sworn-in as a Judge of the Supreme Court by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Dr. A.S. Anand, at a simple function held in the court of the CJI.

Prior to his elevation to the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Pasayat (57) was the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

He was appointed an Additional Judge of the Orissa High Court in March 1989 and made the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court in September 1999.

THE HINDU

20 OCT 2001

Rethink arms sale to Pak, India tells US

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, October 18 19/10

INDIA HAS told the US that resumed arms sales to Pakistan could turn the South Asian situation explosive. It has urged US Secretary of State Colin Powell to reconsider Washington's intentions to revive defence co-operation with Islamabad.

Powell, who met Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra and Home Minister L K Advani, is believed to have said that Washington is "far away" at this moment from deciding on military support to Pakistan.

Officially, India hasn't spelt out its position on the speculated deals. But sources say should the US, which had stopped supplying Pakistan with arms, aircraft and tanks in the wake of the Pressler Amendments in the early 1990s, resume this contact, it would start an "arms race" in the sub-continent. If India's conventional superiority is challenged it may feel forced to shop for aircraft and submarines.

New Delhi wouldn't mind greater economic assistance to Pakistan to let it tide over its

debt crisis. But there is concern in New Delhi that all the money may not be used towards peaceful ends.

No talks now: In Chennai today, Prime Minister A B Vajpayee ruled out any "formal" talks with Pakistan. While some communication was being maintained "there is no proposal to have formal talks," he said, in reply to a question on Indo-Pak ties in the context of last night's of firing from across the LoC and Powell's visit.

Pak shelling: Pakistani troops shelled Indian posts in the Chicken's Neck sector last night without provocation.

The shelling, the heaviest in 10 months, began shortly after 6 pm yesterday, was most intense around midnight and continued till late this morning. The Army said the Pakistanis used heavy-caliber weapons and automatic grenade launchers (AGLs), targeting civilian pockets. Shells and rockets kept raining on the area, thinning out only after midday.

India's director-general of military operations Lt Gen S Chahal discussed the situation with his Pakistani counterpart yesterday at the latter's request.

State drafts Tada-type Ordinance

Tapan Das
Kolkata, October 18

THE STATE Government will promulgate an Ordinance nearly as powerful as the Tada to check the growing menace of ransom-driven abductions, subversive activities and other such crimes.

The State Cabinet is expected to okay the move to issue the West Bengal Prevention of Organised Crime 2001 at its October 22 meeting.

After the State Government's assent, the Governor on receiving the necessary "instruction, as provided under the Constitution" will promulgate the Ordinance.

The Ordinance, as the Cabinet note puts it, would go after "heinous crimes in an effective manner before this menace assumed a serious proportion".

Anyone found guilty of such crimes can be given death sentence, life imprisonment and a fine not less than Rs 1 lakh.

The crimes to be dealt with by this Ordinance will be tried in Special Courts, headed by a Sessions Judge or an Additional Sessions Judge.

Detailed report on Page 5

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2001

BALANCING THE INDO-U.S. ENGAGEMENT

A CHARM OFFENSIVE by the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, during his brief visit to South Asia at this critical moment seems to have pleased India's leaders as also Pakistan's military-political establishment. This cannot conceal, though, Washington's anxiety about how to engage the two countries without aggravating their suspicions about each other and presumably also about America's long-term agenda behind its ongoing 'campaign' against international terrorism in the name of a grand alliance for that purpose. Now, Gen. Powell surely does not appear to have encountered any insurmountable challenges in either Islamabad or New Delhi. Yet, it will be naive to conclude that the Indo-U.S. dialogue as also the Pakistan-America engagement have been put on separate but definitive tracks in the uncharted context of America's new doctrine of friends and foes in a war of sentiments against international terror. It is indeed evident that the exuberant bonhomie of Gen. Powell's latest encounter with his Indian interlocutors, in particular, has had the quality of glossing over the unfulfilled promise on the bilateral front. More significantly, the transparent tendency of the Vajpayee administration to lean unduly on Washington for waging New Delhi's own battles against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir may have also blurred the distinction between the myths and realities of the presently-evolving Indo-U.S. equation.

In a substantive perspective, therefore, both India and the U.S. can and should attempt to enhance their interactions to a higher plane of well-defined purposes. Inviting the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, for talks in Washington on November 9, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, has reaffirmed America's interest in building a broad-based partnership with India. Besides the promotion of "closer cooperation on a range of security and economic issues that advance common objectives", America's intentions encompass its call to strengthen the emerging anti-terror coalition in the internation-

al arena and to foster stability in South Asia. A plain fact is that the U.S. is trying to convince India that its friendship is not being devalued in the context of Washington's compulsions in having befriended Pakistan as an ally in the current fight against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden in neighbouring Afghanistan. India and the U.S., for long estranged democracies, began a conscious process of engagement during the final year of the previous Clinton administration. Yet, if the two countries now find it necessary to make a virtual new beginning, the reason can be traced almost entirely to Washington's radically changed perspective of stability in South Asia in the totality of America's own sense of an unforeseen urgency to insulate itself from the politics of terror.

19/10 MD-12
For India, this offers a fresh opportunity to reassert its strategic independence. Not long ago, New Delhi was leaning towards endorsing the Bush administration's plans for a missile defence system. Instead, the Vajpayee administration should now seek to retrieve and salvage India's overall strategic autonomy in foreign policy and be more conscious of the reality that the U.S. itself should not be given room to play zero-sum games in regard to India and Pakistan. Surely, Pakistan's President and Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, will expect the U.S. to reciprocate his current support for its actions in Afghanistan. He makes no secret of his eagerness to see the U.S. become more cognisant of Islamabad's strategic concerns about the Kashmir 'cause' despite the recurring terrorist blots on that. Gen. Powell, on his part, gave Pakistan something to smile about by affirming the salience of the Kashmir issue. Not surprisingly, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, has characterised that as an example of an Indo-U.S. disagreement that need not become disagreeable at the same time. If this is any sign of maturity, New Delhi should sustain it by seeking a more balanced engagement of the U.S. now.

THE HINDU

19 OCT 2001

Powell rules out U.S. mediation

By Atul Aneja

9mbs
ND-11
NEW DELHI, OCT. 17. The U.S. today asserted that it would address the question of terrorism in India as part of its global campaign.

The visiting U.S. Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, while addressing a joint press conference with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, this afternoon, said "the problem of terrorism is not only limited to Afghanistan. Our efforts are directed against all terrorism."

Gen. Powell pointed out that the core purpose of his visit was "to discuss the global coalition against terrorism and how the United States and India can continue their efforts over the long haul." The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which was signed with the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, this morning, would enhance Indo-U.S. cooperation against crime, he said.

Dispelling apprehensions

about a new U.S. desire for mediation, Gen. Powell said Kashmir issue had to be resolved by India and Pakistan. "To the extent that both nations can find our efforts to be helpful in some way or the other, we will be willing to be helpful."

He, however, defended the involvement of Pakistan in the global campaign against terrorism. "I think Pakistan has made it clear in recent weeks that they recognise the nature of the Taliban regime, and are working with us to fight against Al-Qaeda. They are working with us to see what kind of Government can be put together in the post-Taliban regime."

In response to a question on the centrality of the Kashmir issue, Mr. Jaswant Singh said the two sides differed on the subject. "As two democracies, we could disagree on an event, but we don't need necessarily to be disagreeable about the disagreement. Together, the question of

the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an example of the secular tradition of the Indian nation. In that sense, we really cannot move towards reinventing the two-nation theory all over again."

Improvement of Indo-Pak. relations is inevitable, Mr. Singh said and emphasised that New Delhi was committed to shore up its ties with its western neighbour. "This Government has demonstrated commitment on improving our relations with Pakistan, as perhaps no other Government in the last 50 years has, despite difficulties and uncertainties. The Prime Minister has often said that you can change friends but you cannot change neighbours. We can certainly not alter geography. Pakistan, with India, has to learn to live together as good neighbours. It will come, be assured. We cannot push the pace of it. Nobody can push the pace of it."

Asked to comment on the pos-

sible resumption of the U.S. military aid to Pakistan, the External Affairs Minister said that such a development might not be necessarily negative for India. "We have a certain experience about the military aid to Pakistan in the past. Now that we see some evidence of Pakistan moving away from fixed positions of the past and joining the rest of the international community, we can only hope that the same approach will govern the utilisation of any aid or assistance that they receive from the United States of America or from any other country."

Government sources pointed out that India might not be unduly worried about the possible resumption of the U.S. military assistance to Pakistan. The understanding here was that the U.S. might first extend assistance in training Pakistani armed force personnel. The transfer of military equipment might follow on a "case-by-case" basis.

9/28/8
5:18

US Congressmen welcome PM help against terror

18/10

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 17. — Leading members of the US House of Representatives including those of the India caucus, Mr Jim McDermott and Mr Ed Royce, have written to the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, appreciating India's support to the USA in the aftermath of the 11 September terror strikes. The letter, coinciding with General Colin Powell's visit today, was signed by 50 Congress members, and expresses "sincere thanks and deep appreciation" for the "sincere, rapid and unprompted" offers of help and "steadfast support" given by the Indian government at "this time of trouble."

It also seeks India's cooperation in anti-terrorist activities, and urges the government to maintain the momentum of the joint working group on terrorism, established between the two countries during former President Bill Clinton's visit last year. "Terrorism is but one realm that the USA and India, ..with our mutual commitment to freedom and democracy,..have such a great potential relationship," the letter says, seeking to assuage hurt Indian sentiments with the USA inducting Pakistan as a frontline ally in its "alliance against terror."



Mrs Sonia Gandhi

'Issue is terror, not Kashmir'

NEW DELHI, Oct. 17. — Cross-border terrorism, not Kashmir, is the core issue between India and Pakistan, Mrs Sonia Gandhi told General Colin Powell today.

The US secretary of state met the Congress chief and some of her party colleagues, including Dr Manmohan Singh and Mr Natwar Singh, at her house. Mr Anand Sharma, Congress leader, said the talks went on well and Gen Powell shared some of the concerns expressed by Congressmen over the killing of innocent civilians in Afghanistan. — SNS

THE STATESMAN

18 OCT 2001

PM ACCEPTS BUSH INVITATION TO VISIT U.S. NEXT MONTH

Terrorism against India too will be fought: Powell

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, OCT. 17. Even as the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, concluded his visit here today, the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, will visit Washington next month to hold discussions with the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, on steering the global campaign against terrorism.

Mr. Vajpayee is expected to visit Washington on November 9. He will address the U.N. General Assembly the next day in New York. Mr. Bush's invitation to the Prime Minister had been formalised on Friday, highly-placed Government sources said. Mr. Vajpayee may head for the U.S. from Moscow after concluding his three-day visit to Russia on Nov. 7.

During a day-and-a-half of talks, which hovered around developments in Pakistan, Kashmir and the region, the U.S. reinforced the view that the focus of the on-going international campaign against terrorism should remain fixated on Afghanistan and the Al-Qaida network. Diversionary tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, therefore, had to be kept in check.

India, on its part, saw in the dialogue, an opportunity to reduce terrorist violence in Kashmir and regain its strategic foothold in Afghanistan.

Restraint urged

On Kashmir, Gen. Powell appears to have "convinced" Pakistan to desist from provoking India, the sources said. Without referring to the recent incident of firing along the LoC, the U.S. also urged India to exercise restraint.

Gen. Powell advocated the resumption of a dialogue between India and Pakistan. India reiterated that a dialogue could resume only if Islamabad curbed the promotion of terrorism in Kashmir.

Endorsing the comprehensive Indian approach on political extremism, Gen. Powell, at a joint press conference with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant



The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, with the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, in New Delhi on Wednesday. — Photo: V. Sudershan

Singh, this morning, deplored "terrorism wherever it exists, whether it is the kind of terrorism we saw on September 11, or the kind of terrorism we saw on Octo-

ber 1 in Srinagar."

Indicating Washington's intent to tackle terrorism in India jointly, Gen. Powell said "the United States and India are united

against terrorism and that includes the terrorism that has been directed against India as well."

Retracting from his earlier position on Kashmir, Gen. Powell rephrased the formulation attributed to him — that Kashmir was "a central" issue in the India-Pakistani equation. Referring to his Islamabad press conference he said, "I didn't say 'a central.' If you look at it carefully, I said 'central' in the sense that I believe it is an important issue, and to suggest it isn't wouldn't have been accurate." India appears to have persuaded the U.S. that it needs to reassess the merit of accommodating a "moderate" wing of the Taliban in the future government of Afghanistan, the sources said. While the two countries agreed on resurrecting a broad-based, multi-ethnic post-Taliban dispensation, they differed with respect to the details.

India's formulation revolved around accommodating representatives of the Northern Alliance and the former King, Zahir Shah, and additional representation for the Pushtuns. Pakistan is also understood to have persuaded the U.S. to ensure a prominent role for the Pushtuns in a post-Taliban regime.

The U.S., however, expressed discomfort with this arrangement. There is skepticism in Washington that King Zahir Shah, and his followers, some of whom are prominent businessmen in Europe, may not be acceptable to fellow Pushtuns. It also has serious reservations on the Northern Alliance and apprehends that if it takes over Kabul, it may reaccommodate some of the hardcore Taliban elements. That would undermine the very purpose of the anti-terrorist campaign.

The U.S. has acknowledged that as a neighbour who "lives down the street," (as distinguished from "next door neighbour"), India has a role in the political and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

India, U.S. sign treaty

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 17. India and the U.S. today signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signalling a significant boost to cooperation between the two countries in the fields of law enforcement and counter-terrorism.

The Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, and the visiting U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, signed the Treaty which is expected to enhance the ability of the two countries to pursue their common objective of law enforcement by putting in place a regularised channel for obtaining law enforcement assistance from each other.

It would also improve implementation of the extradition treaty signed between the two countries in July 1999. The Treaty would provide a broader legal basis and enhanced procedural mechanism to enable the two countries to help each other in connection with the investigation, prosecution, prevention and suppression of serious crimes, according to the Home Ministry's official spokesman.

THE HINDU

13 OCT 2001

13 OCT 2001

US secretary of state equates WTC with J&K House blast ■ PM to visit USA in November

Powell flip-flop on Kashmir

Stepped-up American raids kill civilians

TRAIL OF TERROR: WORLD TRADE CENTER TO TERRORIST CENTRES

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, Oct. 17. — General Colin Powell played the master diplomat today, assuring India that he hadn't referred to Kashmir as a central issue, but "one of the important issues" in Indo-Pak ties. He also tried to balance India's concerns over a post-Taliban government in Afghanistan with Pakistan's expectations.

The US secretary of state's clarification on Kashmir came after India expressed displeasure over his reported statement in Islamabad, sources said. Observers here believe Gen. Powell's statement in Pakistan was aimed at assuaging the public feeling there and helping General Pervez Musharraf keep intact his constituency. But Indian leaders made it clear to Gen. Powell that they too had a domestic audience. At a joint press conference with the foreign minister, Gen. Powell said he had been misinterpreted in Islamabad. He said he hadn't referred to Kashmir as a "central issue" between India and Pakistan. It was "central in the sense that it's an important issue."

The Indo-Pak problems should be resolved by the two countries, and the USA being a "friend" of both was always ready to "help," he said. Gen. Powell endorsed New Delhi's stand on terrorism and the view that J&K couldn't be resolved on the basis of two-nation theory. "We make no distinction between what happened on 11 September and the J&K Assembly complex."

Allying fears that the US operation might remain restricted to Osama bin Laden, he said: "We're committed to root out terrorism in all its manifestations and forms. It isn't limited to Afghanistan. Our efforts are directed at all forms of terrorism, including against India."

On forming a non-Taliban government in Afghanistan, he said: "Only after the terrorists are gone, can there be a new government in Kabul." India wouldn't be very happy accepting a regime under the former king, Zahir Shah, given terrorism, backed by Pakistan



31 people in the US congress test positive for anthrax bacteria on Wednesday
 Graphic: Saswata

US planes hit a navy carrying weapons to Kashmir on Wednesday
 ■ Sept 11: WTC, Pentagon attacked; President Bush vows to 'hunt down' the guilty
 ■ Sept 12: US secretary of state says Osama bin Laden is prime suspect; Russia, Nato said for war against terror
 ■ Sept 14: Taliban defends Osama against US charges
 ■ Sept 15: USA is at war, says Bush
 ■ Sept 16: Taliban claims air bases, alerts air defences
 ■ Sept 20: USA freezes Osama's assets; Taliban mobilising 20,000 men, says defence minister
 ■ Sept 21: Afghan acting calls for emergency session
 ■ Sept 27: Taliban says Osama bin Laden is still in Afghanistan, says Taliban
 ■ Oct 7: USA begins strikes after Taliban refuses to hand Osama bin Laden
 ■ Oct 10: Taliban lifts US sanctions
 ■ Oct 12: Bush gives Taliban second chance to hand over Osama, suspends strikes for Friday prayers; Taliban rejects US offer
 ■ Oct 15: Colin Powell in Pakistan, visits fields next day
 ■ Oct 17: Musharraf tells USA to slow campaign to hand over Osama bin Laden, a diplomat said here today
 ■ Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil had visited Islamabad to convey it to the USA. But it's not clear if the issue was raised during the US secretary of state, General Colin Powell's meeting with General Pervez Musharraf yesterday. A report said Mullah Muttawakil had met CIA and ISI representatives with the offer in Islamabad on Monday, but US officials had dismissed the proposal.
King's denial: A spokesman for King Zahir Shah has denied that Mullah Muttawakil had contacted any representative of the former monarch. "That's absolutely wrong," Mr Hamid Sidig said. An earlier report had quoted him as having said that the Taliban minister had been in touch with the former king's men.

KABUL, Oct. 17. — US jets today intensified their raids on Afghanistan, pounding Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad. A Taliban information ministry official said the planes had hit a truck in which Afghans were feeling the town of Chunar, near Kandahar. Eight civilians have been killed in Kandahar's Tanjoa district and 12 in Chunar, Abdul Hanan Himat said. Twenty-five people have been wounded in Chunar. A Kandahar resident said: "This bomb has destroyed two houses and a few shops. There is fire, smoke and dust rising." Afghan Islamic Press reported that two military bases in Jalalabad and a 9-km road to the south of the city have been hit. An AC-130 ground attack plane was involved in the attack on Kabul. "We saw what looked like a big cargo plane moving slowly. We could feel huge blasts," a journalist said. **Omar appeal:** The Taliban chief, Mullah Omar, today urged his followers to be patient and assured them that the USA would be defeated in the war. In his first public statement since Saturday, Omar said: "Everyone has to die one day. We are not afraid of dying and we should die as Muslims." About the USA, he said: "I'm confident that with the Grace of Allah we'll defeat the big infidel." The speech was heard by Taliban fighters over walkie-talkies. **Denial:** One of Osama bin Laden's sons today denied that he had given any interview to British tabloid *Sunday Mirror*. Abdullah said his age was 24, not 18 as claimed by the paper. He claimed he had been staying in Medina and that he had visited Pakistan when he was 12 years old. The *Mirror* said the interview was taken in Peshawar.

AGENCIES
 ■ **Editorial: Wishful thinking, page 8**
 ■ **More reports on pages 6 and 11**

Minister hints at Laden hand-over
AGENCIES
 ISLAMABAD, Oct. 17. — The Taliban foreign minister has asked the Americans to slow down the bombing, so that moderates in the militia could reconsider their refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden, a diplomat said here today. Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil had visited Islamabad to convey it to the USA. But it's not clear if the issue was raised during the US secretary of state, General Colin Powell's meeting with General Pervez Musharraf yesterday. A report said Mullah Muttawakil had met CIA and ISI representatives with the offer in Islamabad on Monday, but US officials had dismissed the proposal. **King's denial:** A spokesman for King Zahir Shah has denied that Mullah Muttawakil had contacted any representative of the former monarch. "That's absolutely wrong," Mr Hamid Sidig said. An earlier report had quoted him as having said that the Taliban minister had been in touch with the former king's men.

PAK SANCTIONS
 WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. — The decks have been cleared for US military and economic aid to Pakistan after the Congress authorised Mr George W Bush to lift sanctions on Islamabad. The House of Representatives yesterday passed a Bill that was cleared by the Senate earlier this month. The Bill authorises the President to waive restrictions on foreign help to Pakistan. It also allows resumption of economic aid to Pakistan and India if the President feels it'll serve the national interest. Last month, Mr Bush lifted nuclear sanctions on India and Pakistan, but the post-coup embargoes on Islamabad were in force because the Congress has the authority to lift them. — PTI

which is a "frontline" state in the global alliance against terror. Gen. Powell, who initially floated the idea of Zahir Shah heading the new regime, is trying to balance the strains of the "frontline" states. Gen. Powell also met Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr LK Advani, Mr Jaswant Singh and Mrs Sonia Gandhi. Treaty: India and the USA today signed a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. It was signed by Mr Advani and Gen. Powell. **PM's visit:** The Prime Minister will visit Russia and the USA next month. The nine-day tour will be significant, especially because India is trying to play a major role in the Afghan crisis. The Indo-Russian summit will take place from 4-7 November. In the USA, Mr Vajpayee will address the session of UN general assembly, rescheduled to 8-12 November. He will meet Mr Bush on the sidelines of the session on 9 November.

its unstinted support to the Northern Alliance over the past few years, sources said. Pakistan has grudgingly accepting Zahir's role, but is keen to keep out as much of the Northern Alliance in a future government as possible. It has indicated its preference for "moderate" Taliban leaders. The militia can't be dislodged without forging a credible alternative, officials said, and any Taliban presence in the new regime will be an anathema to India. India's stand on the Northern Alliance is backed by Russia and Iran. Both the countries have helped the anti-Taliban movement and prevented multilateralism from capturing the entire country. The post-Taliban situation was the main subject of conversation between Gen. Powell and the national security adviser, Mr Brajesh Mishra, today. Mr Jaswant Singh spelt out India's concern on cross-border terrorism, backed by Pakistan

over Osama, suspends strikes for Friday prayers; Taliban rejects US offer
 ■ Oct 15: Colin Powell in Pakistan, visits fields next day
 ■ Oct 17: Musharraf tells USA to slow campaign to hand over Osama bin Laden, a diplomat said here today
 ■ Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil had visited Islamabad to convey it to the USA. But it's not clear if the issue was raised during the US secretary of state, General Colin Powell's meeting with General Pervez Musharraf yesterday. A report said Mullah Muttawakil had met CIA and ISI representatives with the offer in Islamabad on Monday, but US officials had dismissed the proposal.
King's denial: A spokesman for King Zahir Shah has denied that Mullah Muttawakil had contacted any representative of the former monarch. "That's absolutely wrong," Mr Hamid Sidig said. An earlier report had quoted him as having said that the Taliban minister had been in touch with the former king's men.

Minister hints at Laden hand-over
AGENCIES
 ISLAMABAD, Oct. 17. — The Taliban foreign minister has asked the Americans to slow down the bombing, so that moderates in the militia could reconsider their refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden, a diplomat said here today. Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil had visited Islamabad to convey it to the USA. But it's not clear if the issue was raised during the US secretary of state, General Colin Powell's meeting with General Pervez Musharraf yesterday. A report said Mullah Muttawakil had met CIA and ISI representatives with the offer in Islamabad on Monday, but US officials had dismissed the proposal. **King's denial:** A spokesman for King Zahir Shah has denied that Mullah Muttawakil had contacted any representative of the former monarch. "That's absolutely wrong," Mr Hamid Sidig said. An earlier report had quoted him as having said that the Taliban minister had been in touch with the former king's men.

which is a "frontline" state in the global alliance against terror. Gen. Powell, who initially floated the idea of Zahir Shah heading the new regime, is trying to balance the strains of the "frontline" states. Gen. Powell also met Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr LK Advani, Mr Jaswant Singh and Mrs Sonia Gandhi. Treaty: India and the USA today signed a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. It was signed by Mr Advani and Gen. Powell. **PM's visit:** The Prime Minister will visit Russia and the USA next month. The nine-day tour will be significant, especially because India is trying to play a major role in the Afghan crisis. The Indo-Russian summit will take place from 4-7 November. In the USA, Mr Vajpayee will address the session of UN general assembly, rescheduled to 8-12 November. He will meet Mr Bush on the sidelines of the session on 9 November.

its unstinted support to the Northern Alliance over the past few years, sources said. Pakistan has grudgingly accepting Zahir's role, but is keen to keep out as much of the Northern Alliance in a future government as possible. It has indicated its preference for "moderate" Taliban leaders. The militia can't be dislodged without forging a credible alternative, officials said, and any Taliban presence in the new regime will be an anathema to India. India's stand on the Northern Alliance is backed by Russia and Iran. Both the countries have helped the anti-Taliban movement and prevented multilateralism from capturing the entire country. The post-Taliban situation was the main subject of conversation between Gen. Powell and the national security adviser, Mr Brajesh Mishra, today. Mr Jaswant Singh spelt out India's concern on cross-border terrorism, backed by Pakistan

More stress on choking off terrorists' finances will help the India-US fight against terror

Heart of the money matter

A key missing link in India's post-September 11 dealings with the Bush administration has been the will and the wherewithal to aggressively pursue joint efforts to cap the money trail from rich Islamic states to charities both in India and the United States of America which serve as a front for organizations and individuals promoting religious extremism.

The discussions between the US secretary of state, Colin Powell, and Indian leaders yesterday and today focussed primarily on the political, diplomatic and military aspects of the campaign to neutralize the Taliban, get rid of Osama bin Laden and root out terror from its fountainhead in Afghanistan.

By all accounts, inadequate attention was paid to the financial web of terrorism, which poses as much of a threat to India as the militant activities of the Lashkar-e-Toiba or the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. The dividing line between religious extremism and terrorism, as bin Laden has demonstrated, is thin. And if New Delhi does not act swiftly to choke the funds flowing into the coffers of organizations within the country which promote religious disaffection, India will have to face the same regrets which Americans are now reflecting on for not having acted more perceptively in recent years to prevent terrorist attacks of the kind they faced last month.

One of the most perceptive statements made by the president, George W. Bush, since his campaign against terrorism acquired a new edge on September 11 may appear to be simplistic at first glance. Yet, it is a factor in the fight against terror which governments, including the one in New Delhi, have so far ignored at their own peril.

Addressing his first formal press conference last week, Bush said "al Qaeda organization cannot function without money". Bush also claimed that a major drive was on "to reach out to willing nations to disrupt and seize assets of the al Qaeda organization". Two lists in recent days, one by the White House and another by the department of treasury, to freeze the money trail to terrorists may have given the impression to the outside world that the US is moving in dogged pursuit of terrorist funds.

Actually, such a claim falls far short of what is needed. The tragic events at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last month have, by no means, made the "establishment" any more flexible or reasonable. Conflicting interests within the administration continue unabated.

Thus, in the days before the treasury department announced its targets for the funds freeze last week which included Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Rabita Trust — there were bitter disagreements within the administration on who

should be named in the list and how their assets were to be frozen.

The state department's priority was to preserve the coalition which it was helping to build in the diplomatic campaign against bin Laden and the Taliban. Naturally, it wanted Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to be treated with kid gloves.

Just as it knew that General Pervez Musharraf was a benefactor of the Rabita Trust, which had been taken over by bin Laden's associates in recent years, the state department knew that the *crème de la crème* of Saudi society have been associated with charities which had funnelled large amounts of money to bin Laden.

The Muwafaq Foundation of Saudi Arabia is a case in point. Its head, Yasin al Qadi, is among those whose assets have been frozen in the treasury department's order. So is Ayadi Chafiq bin Muhammad, a Bosnian linked to the foundation. Indeed, the treasury department acknowledges on record that the foundation has been giving millions of dollars to bin Laden.

Yet, the Muwafaq Foundation, as an organization, has got away without its assets being frozen. Indeed, unlike Rabita Trust and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Muwafaq, whose name translates into "Blessed Relief", has not been named in the list of organizations channelling money to terrorists.

Why? Because some of Saudi Arabia's most powerful families are associated with the organization and naming it would have put the state department in a bind as it tries its best to bring round Saudi Arabia to meet US needs in its war against bin Laden.

For that matter Qadi himself has long had investments in the US, including a thriving stake in a diamond exploration company based in San Diego, California. Nor is this the first time that anti-terrorist agencies in the US have cited him. Some years ago, he sent \$820,000 from a Swiss bank account for investment in the US. According to a case in which the US justice department froze the funds of an Illinois foundation, the Quranic Literacy Institute, some of this money went to buy weapons for the Palestinian militant group, Hamas.

Despite the administration's kid gloves treatment of prominent Saudi families with clout in the al Saud clan, there is disappointment in Washington that Saudi Arabia has not measured up to American expectations in scrutinizing Islamic charities suspected to be linked to bin Laden's network of terrorist financing.

Officials in the kingdom have told Washington that their search for the as-

DIPLOMACY

K.P. NAYAR

sets of those in the earlier White House list has not yielded worthwhile results. Officials in the treasury department have concluded that Saudi scrutiny of those accounts has been perfunctory. Even in cases where searches have turned up results, it is said that instructions to seize the assets were so slow that they have been salvaged by the owners, legislations have been adequate to deal

ing religious fundamentalists of funds from abroad, which could find its way to subversion. There are piles of files in the home ministry linking Islamic charities in west Asia to subversive activity across India. But the finance ministry is feeling complacent that its archaic rules and legislations have been adequate to deal

It is unrealistic to expect the government to initiate any legislation in this regard when national elections are less than three years away. Yet the problem is serious enough to warrant action.

The only practical way India can be shielded from terrorist financing, therefore, is for New Delhi to take advantage of the climate created in the US following the September 11 outrage and work with the US in shutting down charities in west Asia which are financing terrorist activities against the US as well as India.

The meeting between Powell and Indian leaders is the third high level exchange between the two countries in the month since bin Laden's attacks against the US. That is proof against the argument that India is marginal to the current US-led campaign against global terrorism.

But the meetings which the national security adviser, Brajesh Mishra, and the external affairs minister, Jaswant Singh, had in Washington DC focussed on the broader issues of the fight against global terror. The same is largely true of Powell's meetings in New Delhi.

Any joint Indo-US operations against the financing of terrorism, therefore, remains a missing link in the efforts by Washington and New Delhi to find common ground in their campaign against terror.

The Indo-US joint working group on counter-terrorism is to meet shortly. India ought to press at this forum for action against the financing of terrorism, an aspect which has received less attention than the politico-military aspects of counter-terrorism so far.

This is necessary for practical reasons as well. Because New Delhi will be handicapped for secular reasons from legislating or even acting within the bounds of law against subversive funds flowing into the country from west Asia, the best option for the government would be to choke the funds at their source. This can be done only by enlisting the US's cooperation by joining Washington's campaign against terrorist financing.

India has ample evidence about the nature of terrorist financing. Since New Delhi is already sharing intelligence on the Taliban and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism with the US, it ought to expand such cooperation by sharing information about terrorist financing networks in India as well.

Now that the counter-terrorist set up in the administration has been expanded well beyond the state department and conventional agencies, India ought to reach out to other agencies and lobby for a comprehensive campaign against religious charities in west Asia. This will have the definite effect of starving subversives in India of funds.



The meeting between Colin Powell and Indian leaders is the third high level exchange since the attacks

as in the case of the Jaish-e-Mohammed. Why is all this important for India in its fight against terrorism? A fact, which has been lamented in North Block by the home ministry, but largely ignored by the finance ministry, is that some of the very groups and individuals who have been cited in the two American lists have been funding religious activities in India wallowing in fundamentalism and bordering on terrorism. Just as political expediency prevented New Delhi from banning the Students Islamic Movement of India until the events of September 11, the search for vote banks and secular credentials have prevented the government from starving

with the problem. Actually, this reflects a lack of understanding of the challenge. Legislation in India governing foreign contributions has, ironically, prevented good work in the areas of charity and human development from being undertaken; but it has not prevented money from going into subversion.

India rejects Pak contention J&K figures in Powell-Jaswant meeting

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 16. — Against the backdrop of the USA's observation that Kashmir is "central" to Indo-Pak ties, the state's volatile situation remained an issue of concern during Mr Jaswant Singh's one-to-one talks with Mr Colin Powell today.

The US Secretary of State arrived here this evening from Islamabad and held a 50-minute talk with the foreign minister. Apparently, Mr Powell termed India's support to the USA after the 11 September attacks as a "source of comfort".

At the delegation level meeting, the two sides discussed the Afghan situation, the need to form a broadbased government there, prospects for improved Indo-US ties and the need to fight terrorism globally. The talks will continue tomorrow.

The USA apparently "saw in this crisis... an opportunity to further broaden a relationship what is already strong, stable and constructive", said a foreign ministry spokesperson.

She indicated Kashmir had come up for discussions. "India's view on Kashmir is well known to the American side, but on this occasion, it's natural for India to discuss the issue."

The US team included the under-secretary of arms control and international security, Mr John Bolton and assistant secretary for south Asian affairs, Ms Christina Rocca. The Indian side included adviser (security), Mr Arun Singh, Mr Brajesh Mishra, and foreign secretary, Mr Chokila Iyer.

Earlier in the day, India rejected the Pakistani President's contention that Kashmir was at the "heart of Indo-Pak tensions". New Delhi asked Islamabad to create a conducive climate for meaningful talks. The spokesperson said: "We don't agree with that premise. This is not a new position... our response to that is also not altered."

She, however, didn't react to Mr Powell's remarks in Islamabad that Kashmir was "central" to Indo-Pak ties.

"We have been saying we must have talks with Pakistan and we haven't jettisoned the policy. From our side there is no dearth of willingness. But Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism must stop. Unfortunately, there has not been sufficient response from Pakistan side in that direction.

Pakistan should abjure violence and shed its one-point agenda, focussed on Kashmir. "We need to look at the whole issue and address all issues in a composite manner."

The spokesperson said India would continue to reflect and articulate its concerns, though there might be some differences with the USA. "Our concern on whatever issues we feel necessary will be conveyed to the American side."

"The situation in J&K is a consequence of state sponsored cross-border terrorism. It's not the cause..." On Mr George Bush's advice to India and Pakistan to exercise restraint, she said: "Restraint is a good idea."

■ USA, Pak see future role for Taliban, page 9

THE STATESMAN

17 OCT 2001

'Terrorism at the heart of the matter'

KD 1 By Atul Aneja gmb w

NEW DELHI, OCT. 16. The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell arrived here this evening on a mission to keep Indo-Pak. tensions on Kashmir in check, expand bilateralism and hold detailed discussions with New Delhi on the future of Afghanistan.

17/10
Gen. Powell was received at the airport by the Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, the Indian ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Lalit Mansingh and the U.S. ambassador to India, Mr. Robert Blackwill. "It is a pleasure to be in India and here in New Delhi", said Gen. Powell but declined to take questions from reporters. "I will meet you tomorrow," he told a battery of media personnel which had assembled at the airport.

Later in the evening, Gen. Powell held a 50-minute one-to-one talks with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh at Hyderabad House. This was followed by dele-

gation-level talks over dinner. The U.S. delegation includes, Assistant Secretary of State on South Asia, Ms. Christina Rocca, Mr. John Bolton, Undersecretary, Arms Control and International Security, Mr. Richard Boucher, Assistant Secretary, Public Affairs and a representative from the office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Besides Mr. Jaswant Singh, the Indian delegation included the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, the Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, and Adviser (Security) to the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Arun Singh.

During his 20-hour stop in the capital, Gen. Powell is expected to hear out India's views on Kashmir and the future of Afghanistan. India's perceptions are expectedly at variance with those expressed by Pakistan. Besides, India and the U.S. differ on the road map which can help defuse Indo-Pak tensions in Kashmir. Both sides are there-

fore expected to narrow down their differences on the approach for resolving the Kashmir issue during talks.

Not surprisingly, the issue of Kashmir and Gen. Powell's public remarks in Islamabad about the centrality of Kashmir in the Indo-Pak. equation came up for discussions in the evening. The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, who briefed the media after the dinner meeting, however, declined to go into details.

Earlier during the day, she rejected the assertion about the centrality of Kashmir. India, she maintained wished to address Indo-Pak. relations in a "composite manner."

She also dismissed the notion that Kashmir was at the "heart" of the friction between India and Pakistan. Instead, it was the "state sponsorship of terrorism" by Pakistan which was the root cause of Jammu and Kashmir's predicament.

Government sources pointed out that the main purpose of Gen. Powell's visit here is to ensure that the international coalition retains its focus on terrorism radiating from Afghanistan. Consequently "diversionary" military tensions, such as those existing between India and Pakistan, have to be kept under control. Gen. Powell during his stay at Islamabad advocated resumption of Indo-Pak. talks as a therapy for lowering Indo-Pak. tensions. He also indicated that "moderate" members of the Taliban could be accommodated in a future political arrangement in Afghanistan.

India, on its part, would like the Powell visit to promote its key policy objective of diminishing terrorist violence in Kashmir. Concerned about excessive Pakistani influence in Afghanistan since the early nineties, India would also not like to miss the "historic" opportunity of being recognised as a player in the post-Taliban phase.

SECRET

17 OCT 2001

New Delhi rejects Powell's statement on Kashmir

Says India is ready for talks, but Pak must stop aiding terrorism

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: Even as U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell arrived here on Tuesday after a brief visit to Pakistan for discussions on the Afghan situation, the ministry of external affairs rejected his claim that Kashmir was at the heart of the tensions between the neighbours.

Reacting to Gen Powell's remark at a press conference in Islamabad, an external affairs ministry spokesperson said, "We certainly do not agree with that premise. There should not be any confusion between cause and effect." She maintained that the present situation in Jammu and Kashmir was the result of state-sponsored terrorism.

On the U.S. official's statement about the need for Indo-Pak dialogue, she said while there was no lack of willingness on the part of the Indian government, Pakistan had to first stop cross-border terrorism. The spokesperson, however, refused to be drawn into answering a question if India was merely repeating that it was Pakistan which needed to abjure its "unifocal approach and obsessive stress on a one-point agenda" and look at the whole



Pakistan's Gen Pervez Musharraf smiles alongside visiting U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell after a joint press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday.

process in a composite manner.

Giving indications that differences might crop up during the talks with Gen Powell, the spokesperson rejected the idea of a "moderate" Taliban leadership.

Reiterating external affairs minister Jaswant Singh's description of the phrase "moderate" as an oxymoron, she said, "We do not really believe there is any place for the Taliban in the structure. The new government has to be inclusive but without any promotion of terrorism as an ideology."

Meanwhile, Gen Powell had extensive discussions with external affairs minister Jaswant Singh over a working dinner at Hyderabad House on Tuesday night. He is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Vajpayee and other leaders on Wednesday before returning home.

At a joint press conference in Islamabad earlier in the day, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Gen Powell said they agreed that any future Afghan government should include the opposition as well as Taliban members. According to Gen Musharraf, former king Zahir Shah, political leaders, moderate Taliban leaders, elements from the opposition Northern Alliance, tribal elders and Afghans living outside their country could play a role in the government that replaced the Taliban regime.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

17 OCT 2001

Policy on Kashmir has not changed: U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

1001 14/10
WASHINGTON, OCT. 13. The Bush administration is saying that there is no change in Washington's Kashmir policy and is objecting to the argument that India would take advantage of Pakistan's diversion of attention to attack terrorist and militant groups.

"I don't accept the premise in the question. We have been working with both sides independently but positively on the coalition. We have relationships with both Pakistan and India that have been developing positively... we've always worked with them, encouraged them to take steps to reduce tension and we would continue to want to see them do that now," the State Department spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, said on Friday. Asked if the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, will caution

Pak. to look into Jaish bank accounts but says J&K struggle will not be affected: Page 8

India not to strike Pakistan 'right now', he said, "... we've always encouraged them to take positive steps to reduce tensions and we'll continue to do that now".

Gen. Powell is expected in India on Tuesday after going to Pakistan and his visit is seen as basically reassuring New Delhi that longer term bilateral relations are on course.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, Gen. Powell is there to reassure the Musharraf Government that the U.S. is in for the long haul as well and that Islamabad has no reasons to be worried about being pushed to the sidelines once the Afghan campaign is over. However, no major announcement is expected during his South Asia trip.

It is being stressed in some quarters that neither New Delhi nor Islamabad should look at the evolving U.S. role in South Asia in terms of a zero sum game; rather it must be seen in terms of an opportunity for the region that could have positive fallouts for both India and Pakistan.

In terms of Pakistan, the sanctions are out of the way; no one is seriously talking about the democracy road map even if some lip-service has been paid to this on Capitol Hill; a liberal economic package, including debt relief and immediate assistance of about \$600 millions, is on the works. Ironically, perhaps in all this is the realisation in some quarters that given the circumstances it is only the brass hats who can deliver the goods. Meanwhile, the State Department, in taking note of the Treasury Department's freezing of the assets of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, says that this did not automatically mean the designation of the outfit as a foreign terrorist organisation.

THE HINDU

1001 14/10

VAJPAYEE:

(Continued from page 1)

and Jalalabad, which has already been targeted. The two biggest camps are at Hadda Farm and Khost with strengths of 150 and 200 respectively. The Nangarhar town camp for about 70 militants is for Kashmiri militants but is a centre for ideological indoctrination. Maulana Abdul Rehman heads the camp. About 100 people can be trained at Jalalabad and about 25 at Bandi Darunta.

■ Near Kabul, there is a camp at Rishkor for 250 people. That is for the Taliban troops. At Bagram South (also, near an airport and likely to be struck) there is a camp for 100 terrorists. Arab militants are trained here.

There are a number of other camps likely to be targeted. They are at Pakhtia for 50 people and at Logar for people of West and Central Asia, also for the same number of people. In Ko-e-Siah Boz in Takhar, there is a camp for 50 Taliban recruits from madrasahs. In Kunduz and Naghloodam, there are other camps.

In the Balkh province, at Mazar-i-Sharief, Deh Dadi and Kod-e-Barg, there are camps for about 200 people, while in Herat, western Afghanistan, there is a camp for 60 Taliban troops and at Hilmand, another one for about 25 people.

Besides, the camps, which may be empty, there are other strategic targets for the American and British forces. They include the airports at Kabul and Kandahar and probably, Herat and Bagram. There are other military installations, but unlike modern armies, the Taliban does not have a organised structure. It is therefore, a little more difficult to find the necessary targets.

The most hi-tech military equipment is being aimed at these targets. First, it was important to locate these targets through satellite photographs or human Intelligence. The USA had asked the Pakistan military for details of caves and underground tunnels. Initially, it was learnt that Pakistan was reluctant but later, Pakistan, which helped the Taliban take over the country, probably gave some information.

The most well-known is the Tomahawk TLBM-C, cruise missile used for targets like radars and air-defence systems. These can be fired from US Los Angeles and Aegis class ships and also submarines. The British Trafalgar class ships can also fire them. They can be used to destroy air defence systems and radars. Once the air-defence systems are off, the bombers and fighter bombers can be used to pound targets with laser-guided "smart" bombs. Some of the bombs may be tipped with depleted uranium and these can tear through the earth and hit the underground installations. The F-18 Hornet fighter-bombers and the B-52 bombers from Diego Garcia can be used for the strikes.

The B-52s can use conventional bombs and are effective. Then, there are the Stealth bombers that can evade radar.

Against these forces, the Afghans have some old Sukhoi-22 fighter-bombers and the still deadly Stinger missiles that were supplied to the Mujahideen fighting the Soviets in the Eighties.

The land battle, if it takes place, will be a more difficult task because of the terrain and the experience of the battle-tested Afghan fighters. But there are only 50,000 trained soldiers with some tanks.

Initial attacks on select targets by US special forces like Rangers and British commandos may have already begun. Of course, where Osama bin Laden is and how he can be captured or killed is not known.

THE STATESMAN

12 OCT 2001

India, U.S. for joint military cooperation

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 9. With the lifting of sanctions, India and the United States are looking for joint military cooperation in a variety of fields including warship designing and basic research in oceanography.

18/10
According to officials, the U.S. officials held discussions with the Indian Navy for possible joint forays. The U.S. is keen on getting involved in the modernisation of Indian military aircraft by offering

its expertise in the fields of avionics, sensors and engines. The Indian Advanced Light Helicopter project and VIP aircraft are other areas of interest. RD-13

Elaborating on the lifting of sanctions, the U.S. officials made two key points. First, the list of Indian entities to which transfer of U.S. technology had been earlier proscribed has been drastically pruned down. Second, U.S. firms can transfer know-how to the entities mentioned in the new list on a case-by-case basis.

There has been a major shift in the U.S.' attitude regarding transfer of sensitive technology to India. "From a presumption of denial we have moved to a presumption of approval," they said. That means that firms wanting to transfer know-how to Indian establishments, such as the DRDO and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) will be given an export licence in nearly 80 per cent of the cases.

The lifting of sanctions should also help India procure military

hardware with U.S.-origin components from third countries. For instance, India is looking for early warning aircraft from Israel which have a radar indigenously built, but funded by the U.S. India's fleet of British Sea King helicopters had also been affected on account of the unavailability of U.S.-origin spares.

Officials pointed out that the purpose of the sanctions was to discourage proliferation of nuclear or missile know-how to third countries from India.

THE HINDU

10 OCT 1971

Bush apprises PM of attacks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

9250 08 511
810

NEW DELHI, Oct. 7. — In what appeared to be an acknowledgement of India's concerns, Mr George W Bush called Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee around 5.30 p.m. today to inform that attacks on specific targets in Afghanistan would commence later this evening.

During the ten-minute conversation, Mr Bush told the Prime Minister that the "USA condemns terrorism all over the world, wherever it happens," a PMO official said. Mr Bush did not specifically refer to Jammu and Kashmir, though he said "terrorism is terrorism". The USA would shortly include the Jaish-e-Mohammed in the list of banned terrorist organisations, he assured Mr Vajpayee.

As further proof of the "high regard" in which the USA holds India, Mr Bush told Mr Vajpayee he was sending his secretary of state, General Colin Powell, to India in the third week of October, a PMO spokesman said. Mr Vajpayee expressed his satisfaction.

Mr Bush spoke of the problems the Sikh community in the USA faced after the 11 September strikes.

He assured Mr Vajpayee that he had personally instructed his administration to ensure that they were not harassed. He said he had personally met representatives of the community and assured them of safety, for which the Prime Minister thanked him.

SOUTH BLOCK BRIEFS VAJPAYEE

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 7. — Just before the first American and British cruise missiles hit targets in Afghanistan, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee paid a visit to the operations room in South Block.

Defence ministry sources said the Prime Minister was briefed about the situation in Afghanistan, the positions and targets the Americans are aiming at. Some of them are particularly significant for India as they are terrorist camps that train militants operating in Jammu and Kashmir. India had made a list of these camps and informed the USA and Britain.

The camps the cruise missiles are likely to hit are:

■ A camp in Kandahar commanded by a Colonel of the Pakistani ISI, Col. Bahadur Khatak, and other camps in Kandahar including Shrinak, Ghaziabad and Darunta. The Ghaziabad camp is for preliminary training while the Darunta camp is for the Taliban. The Darunta camp is being commanded by a Colonel Saifullah of the ISI. The Kandahar camp is the largest of the four. About 200 militants can be trained in these camps at a time.

■ Another area which has become a centre for training militants is the Nangarhar province. There are five camps there at Bandi Darunta, Hadda Farm, Khost, Nangarhar town

■ See VAJPAYEE: page 8

THE STATESMAN

1 001 201

U.S. arms supply to Pak. will cause concern

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, OCT. 6. The likely resumption of U.S. military aid to Pakistan as a result of the waiver of all sanctions on Islamabad has evoked a sharp response here.

Official sources said the resumption of military aid would go contrary to India's national interests. Pakistan's track record on the use of U.S.-supplied weaponry had been unfavourable as this hardware, in the past, was used against India. "These concerns continue to remain even today," they said.

Sources here differentiated between the economic sanctions against Pakistan from the restrictions imposed after the overthrow of democracy there. India had not opposed the

lifting of economic sanctions largely imposed after Pakistan exploded a nuclear device. "We wish Pakistan well and do not find any reason to oppose the lifting of economic sanctions," they said.

But India sees as highly objectionable any resumption of military aid at a time when a global campaign against terrorism is under way. Pakistan appears to have 'bargained' its way to resumption of military aid and it looks as if the world community has paid its 'ransom' for Islamabad's support for the campaign against terrorism, the sources observed.

The flow of economic and military aid to Pakistan is likely to resume on account of the vote in the U.S. Senate to waive temporarily all sanctions against Pakistan for two years.

In a related development, the fallout of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. has upset the diplomatic schedule. The Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhu Rongji, has rescheduled his three-day visit to India from November 9. The Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr. Viktor Orban, and the South Korean President, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, have already cancelled their visits.

The Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ilya Klebanov, who was to arrive this week, has also rescheduled his tour as he was supervising the recovery of the sunken Kursk submarine. The Russians had agreed to postpone this three-day visit to October 11 or 14. Mr. Klebanov is now expected to arrive on October 14, a month prior to the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit to Moscow.

THE HINDU

7 OCT 2002

India opposes U.S. move to supply arms to Pakistan

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: India, on Thursday, once again conveyed its opposition to any move by the U.S. to supply arms to Pakistan, saying past experience had shown that these were invariably used against India.

India's position was reiterated by human resource development minister Murli Manohar Joshi when U.S. ambassador Robert Blackwill called on him at his Shastri Bhavan office for what was described as a 'courtesy call' when Mr Blackwill explained Washington's viewpoint on terrorism. The U.S. government, he said, is gratified that it has "India as such a primary ally," adding that America believes that India's fight against terrorism should be taken seriously.

Speaking to reporters after the 45-minute meeting, Mr Joshi said he drew attention to the latest U.S. efforts to help Pakistan and recalled that in the past whenever Islamabad received arms hardware from America, these were used against India. He also referred to a letter once written by Mr Eisenhower in which he had given a specific assurance that the arms supplied by the U.S. to Pakistan would not be used against India. "But this did happen," Mr Joshi said, adding that he told the ambassador that India had no objections to the U.S. offering economic help to Pakistan. "But it should be not be given arms," he emphasised.

Mr Blackwill, on his part, said he had briefed the minister on the current American thinking on the recent crisis, triggered by the September 11 terror attacks. He referred to the "universality of the challenge" of terrorism, stating that the war against terrorism as envisaged by the U.S. had "many, many phases". He also assured India that the U.S. was not going to loose its stamina in this "global fight against terrorism" which was not a one-day affair.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

6 OCT 2002

Jaswant, Powell vow to fight terror

9/29/07
57-8 4/10
DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3. - Mr Jaswant Singh and Gen. Colin Powell yesterday vowed to fight terrorism together, a day after 38 people fell prey to a terrorist attack in Kashmir.

At a press conference, the US secretary of state labelled Monday's attack an act of terrorism and expressed his condolences.

Mr Singh toured the World Trade Center remains with the New York mayor, Mr Rudolph W Giuliani, and met the Vice-President, Mr Richard B Cheney, and defence secretary, Mr Donald H Rumsfeld. On Monday, he met Mr George W Bush and the national security adviser, Ms Condoleezza Rice.

The foreign minister gave Mr Giuliani two urns with water from 11 Indian rivers as a mark

of solidarity with the victims of the 11 September attacks.

He expressed confidence in the Bush administration's promise to fight terrorism. "There is no way the USA will give up midway," he said.

He said India would welcome it if Pakistan abandoned terrorism and joined others in fighting it. However, he had doubts about the USA teaming up with Pakistan to fight the Al-Qaida.

"I wish the USA luck when it tries to convert the problem into the solution, but Pakistan is part of the problem," he said. He also expressed concern over the USA supplying arms to Pakistan.

In a TV interview on Monday, Mr Singh said the USA wanted to share with India Intelligence in regard to terrorist training camps and other aspects. He said he didn't agree that military

attacks against the Taliban could backfire on the USA.

Yesterday, the US ambassador to Pakistan, Ms Wendy Chamberlain, shared with the Pakistani President evidence that links Bin Laden's group to the 11 September attacks. Gen. Pervez Musharraf reportedly was not convinced by the proof. Mr Tony Blair and Nato leaders have also been provided the evidence, and they are convinced of Bin Laden's and the Taliban's guilt.

Blair speaks to Vajpayee

In his telephonic conversation with Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee today, the British Prime Minister supported India's stand that terrorism must be tackled globally, a report from Delhi says.

He expressed condolences for



Gen. Colin Powell with Mr Jaswant Singh outside the US state department in Washington on Tuesday night. - AP/PTI

the victims of the attack outside the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. "This is the kind of terrorism the governments should cooperate in rooting out," he said.

THE STATESMAN

4 OCT 2001

9ms
w3

Target all outfits like Al-Qaeda: Jaswant

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 2. The visiting External Affairs and Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, during his talks with the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, and the National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, on Monday put forth the depth and width of India's understanding of terrorism, especially as it pertains to the subcontinent; and is said to have rather forcefully argued that no distinction can be made in the fight against the global scourge.

"The President certainly gave the impression that he was fully aware of India's sensitivities," a diplomat told *The Hindu*. Further, Mr. Bush is said to have told Mr. Singh that the recent developments had no bearing whatsoever on the directions of India-U.S. relations.

The Bush administration is aware of what is happening in the subcontinent by way of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

It is also aware of the Islama-

bad-Kabul link and that Pakistan's top military brass is in constant touch with the Taliban. Pakistan is closely being watched, it is said here.

Mr. Jaswant Singh is said to have told Mr. Bush that the different manifestations of the Al-Qaeda would have to be tackled, going beyond Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden. Both Mr. Vajpayee's letter and Mr. Singh directly questioned Pakistan's credentials in the fight against terrorism.

But India has also been making it clear to the U.S. that its raising of the terrorism issue as it pertains to the subcontinent and Pakistan is not meant to put Washington in a difficult situation vis-a-vis Islamabad in the current campaign. The U.S. has been told that while New Delhi fully understood Washington's compulsions in the immediate context, the longer term should not be forgotten or brushed aside.

According to Mr. Singh, Mr. Bush agreed that the fight against terrorism "cannot be uni-dimen-

sional or uni-directional". On the general and overall situation in Afghanistan, in public comments Mr. Singh said the Taliban must go, but the international community must be careful about how it goes — a reference to sure failure if the alternative is not broad-based, including all sections of the Afghan society.

If the high point of Mr. Singh's itinerary on Monday was the lengthy conversation with Mr. Bush in the course of a meeting with Dr. Rice, today he meets the Vice-President, Mr. Dick Cheney, the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, and the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld. Mr. Singh is also slated to meet top law-makers on Capitol Hill.

'Correct decision'

PTI reports from New Delhi:

Mr. Singh said the Government's decision two years back to release Maulana Masood Azhar, now heading the Jaish-e-Mohammad, in return for the release of 178 passengers of the hijacked Indian airlines plane to Kandahar,

was a difficult but correct action.

"The Government had no option at that point of time ... It was a very difficult decision. The Government acted correctly," Mr. Singh told CNN.

He was asked whether the release of Azhar, whose JeM has claimed responsibility for Monday's suicide car bomb attack outside Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, had been an act of weakness and encouraged terrorism globally including attacks in the U.S.

Mr. Singh, who had flown in a special aircraft ferrying the three terrorists to Kandahar, said the hijackers had originally demanded the release of 36 hardcore militants and \$ 360 million but this had been whittled down to freeing the three terrorists.

Squarely blaming Pakistan for encouraging JeM, he said without its support, the organisation could not have operated from that country. After his release, Azhar had moved to Pakistan and established his base there for operations against India, he added.

THE HINDU

3 OCT 2001

INDIA TALKS TOUGH ON TERRORISM

It's time to restrain Pak., PM tells Bush

By Atul Aneja ^{9/20/01}

NEW DELHI, OCT. 2. Citing Monday's suicide attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has written to the United States President, Mr. George Bush, bringing to his attention the need to urgently restrain Pakistan from backing international terrorists in Kashmir.

India, according to the Prime Minister, can simply not ignore the terrorist acts which threaten the nation's security. "Incidents of this kind raise questions for our security which, as a democratically elected leader of India, I have to address in our supreme national interest." Pointing to the urgency of holding back Islamabad, he said "Pakistan must understand that there is a limit to the patience of the people of India."

India's diplomatic offensive, aimed at ensuring that Kashmir is included in the global campaign against terrorism follows the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Monday night, which took place after the attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. It comes at a time when the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, is in the U.S. and in the wake of his meetings with the U.S. National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and Mr. Bush himself.

In the letter, sent hours after the car bomb attack, Mr. Vajpayee said, "I write this with anguish at the most recent terrorist attack in our State of Jammu and Kashmir... A Pakistan-based terrorist organisation, Jaish-e-Mohammad, has claimed responsibility for the dastardly act and named the Pakistani national, based in Pakistan, as one of the suicide bombers involved." (PTI, UNI report)

In a pointed reference to Islamabad's double-speak, he said "there has been understandable anger in the country at this wanton act of violence. Ironically, it comes a day after the President of Pakistan announced on television that Pakistan has no terrorist groups operating from its territory."

Mr. Vajpayee said in his letter that he had asked Mr. Jaswant Singh to convey India's sentiments to the U.S. "Mr. President, the world is still coming to terms with the horrendous events of September 11. India joined wholeheartedly with the United States in its goal for the destruction and defeat of the global terror network which you eloquently announced in your address to the Congress. With you, we condemned any nation that continues to harbour or support terrorism."

See also Page 14

Campaign global: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 2. The U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, has personally assured India that the U.S. campaign against terrorism is global and not uni-dimensional as seen through the prism of Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qaeda terror network.

Mr. Bush conveyed this to the visiting External Affairs and Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, on Monday. Mr. Bush not only dropped in at a White House meeting between Mr. Singh and the U.S. National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, but spent 45 minutes of a 75-minute discussion with him.

Mr. Bush had good reasons for spending his time at the meeting in spite of his hectic schedule.

New Delhi has been quite wary of the growing Washington-Islamabad nexus, especially as it pertains to fighting terrorism. Second, Mr. Singh has delivered a letter from the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, to Mr. Bush that is sharp in tone and content, accusing Pakistan of having a direct role in the wanton acts of violence and killings in Jammu and Kashmir and warning Islamabad — through Washington — that there is a limit to India's patience.



The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, with the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, at the White House in Washington on Tuesday. — AP

Mr. Singh's meeting with Mr. Bush has to be seen against the backdrop of yesterday's killings in Srinagar and in the boast of the Pakistan-backed Jaish-e-Mohammad claiming responsibility for

the attack and even naming a Pakistani national based in Pakistan as one of the suicide bombers. Diplomatic sources said Mr. Bush was fully aware of the incident.

'Target all outfits': Page 13

THE HINDU

3 OCT 2001

J&K blast adds meat to US talks

S Rajagopalan
Washington, October 1

INDIA WILL once again be bringing up the issue of Kashmir terrorism when External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh meets top functionaries of the Bush administration later tonight and tomorrow.

Hours before the commencement of Singh's meetings came the news from Srinagar of a car bomb explosion in front of the Assembly building. The incident was reckoned to provide Singh a critical talking point for the interface with his American interlocutors.

Just a week ago, National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra was here to voice Indian concerns on the terrorist depredations in the country for two decades even while pledging New Delhi's full support for the United States' war on terrorism.

Washington provided an assurance to Mishra that its campaign will go beyond Osama bin Laden's terrorism, but for the moment the focus will be on the tragedies of the World Trade Center and Pentagon, an operation in which it sorely needs Pak-

INDIAN SOIL FOR NEW YORK MEMORIAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister Jaswant Singh has handed over two urns, one containing water from all major Indian rivers and another the country's soil, to New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to be put into the foundation of any memorial that is to be built for the victims of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Earlier, addressing an inter-faith meeting organised by Federation of Indian Associations to pay homage to victims, he announced establishment of an international fund for terror victims and urged Indians to contribute to it generously.

PTI, New York

istan's help.

That New Delhi was not all that satisfied with Washington's assurance became clear a couple of days later when Prime Minister Vajpayee went public with his criticism of the US's "indifference" to Kashmir terrorism.

Given this backdrop and Washington's continuing bid to please Islamabad, Singh's meetings here are regarded as significant. He will hold talks with Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and prominent Congressional leaders.

Opinion in Indian-American circles, however, is divided on the wisdom of the Indian approach.

One leading light, known for his proximity to the New Delhi establishment, felt that India should give the US breathing time instead of harping on Kashmir terrorism at this juncture.

However, there are others endorsing the view that India needs to keep the pressure on the US to make sure that Pakistan does not succeed in exploiting the present situation to its advantage. These sections are wary of a renewed sustenance for the Pakistani quest for third-party mediation on the Kashmir issue.

In this connection, certain observations by Pakistani Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi here have not gone unnoticed. Many of her countrymen, she told The New York Times, were wonder-

ing if the US would return Pakistan's favour once the present crisis ended.

"There is the view that during the Cold War, Pakistan was the most trusted ally. And then, within the space of just a few months, we became America's most sanctioned friend," she remarked.

Singh, during his meetings, is also expected to voice his concern over resumption of military sales to Pakistan, given the fact that the weapons will be primarily used against India. Although government-to-government weapon deals are still prohibited because of the US's continuing "democracy-related sanctions", Islamabad is trying to get round the situation.

Prior to his arrival here, Singh attended an inter-faith meeting in New York yesterday for the victims of the World Trade Center tragedy. According to reports, Singh proposed an international fund to help victims of terrorism, especially those in India.

Outlining the idea on behalf of the Minister, Indian Ambassador Lalit Mansingh urged the Indian-American community to take the initiative on this.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 OCT 2001

U.S. assails massacre, but refuses to rethink alliance with Pakistan

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Although the U.S. has condemned the latest terrorist outrage in Kashmir, there seems to be no sign in the administration of any misgivings over Washington's support to a military regime in Pakistan that is committed to a militaristic agenda against India.

News of the Monday afternoon massacre in the Srinagar legislature reached Washington even as external affairs minister Jaswant Singh arrived here from New York for talks with the Bush administration. But it barely caused a ripple in the administration or the news media now in the throes of a planned attack on the Taliban in Afghanistan with Pakistani help.

The state department condemned the attack, but deferred immediate statement. Mandarins of the department's South Asia bureau went into a huddle to discuss the implications of incident on the U.S. plans for the region.

Mr Singh is expected to meet national security advisor Condoleezza Rice at the White House. He will meet vice-president Dick Cheney, secretary of state Colin Powell and defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Tuesday.

Administration officials admitted privately that the Kashmir outbreak had come at an awkward time for the U.S. and in a

PAYING LIP SYMPATHY

- U.S. too busy with its own affairs
- Jaswant to meet Cheney, Powell
- Officials admit Pak link to terrorism

sense, had complicated things. While on the one hand, Washington needs Pakistani help at a practical and logistical level to undertake its mission in Afghanistan, on the other, the administration is fully cognizant of Pakistan's complicity in the violence in Kashmir.

The administration has to now

reconcile to the incongruity of allying with a military regime at a time when the terrorists it calls freedom fighters are undermining democratic institutions in Kashmir through violence. Somehow, it doesn't sit well, an official conceded.

In its eagerness to co-opt Pakistan, the U.S. has so far not publicly linked the Pakistan-backed terrorist groups operating in Kashmir to the Taliban, although officials admit privately that all the groups are inter-linked.

The administration's first priority appears to be to gain a clear handle over the Musharraf regime and finish off Osama bin Laden and the Taliban before turning its attention to other problems.

So for now at least, India is on its own, and can expect little from Washington other than lip sympathy.

- See Edit: Rhetoric & Reality, Page 10
- Christians in Pakistan fear attacks, Page 12
- U.S. vulnerability to attacks, Page 12

THE TIMES OF INDIA

7 2 2001

Govt. criticised for allowing U.S. aircraft landing facility

By Our Special Correspondent ^{gnd}

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29. The Vajpayee Government's decision to allow the U.S. military aircraft landing facility here led to protests from the Left parties, while the Congress warned the Government against allowing Indian soil to be used by foreign troops to attack a third country.

The Congress did not object to New Delhi providing refuelling facility or the use of airspace to the U.S. military aircraft for fighting international terrorism. India had granted similar permission in the past, an obvious reference to the permission by the then Chandra Shekhar regime during the Gulf war.

The chairman of AICC foreign affairs department, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, said Indian soil should not be allowed to be used by foreign troops to carry out attacks against a third country.

The CPI(M) objected to the move on the ground that it came despite the consensus arrived at the all-party meeting in which the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, had assured that the Government's involvement in the war against terrorism would not be beyond exchange of information with the U.S.

"Strong doubts have arisen in the minds of the people that such provision of landing facility will gradually involve our country into the intended American war against Afghanistan," the CPI(M) politburo said in a statement.

It demanded that the Vajpayee Government "strictly adhere" to its assurance given at the all-party meeting as well as the consensus arrived at the meeting.

The CPI echoed similar sentiments and suggested that the Prime Minister should take the people, Parliament and the Opposition into confidence before allowing such facilities to

^{HO & 20/9} the U.S. military aircraft. The CPI national secretary, Mr. Atul Kumar Anjan, said Mr. Vajpayee should explain to the nation what transpired between New Delhi and Washington.

Another CPI national secretary, Mr. D. Raja, wondered whether allowing the U.S. military aircraft on Friday was the first step to involve India in the American war.

Two NDA allies, the Janata Dal (United) and the Samata Party, said the permission granted by the Government was not unusual. The spokesmen of both parties reiterated that the NDA had already authorised the Prime Minister and the NDA Government to take necessary steps in the global fight against terrorism.

RSS asks Muslims to join fight against terrorism

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 29. Giving a call to all communities — including Muslims — to join hands to fight terrorism, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has warned that those who did not fall in line would be isolated and effectively countered.

"The people of all religions, sects and ideologies should unite together in the fight against terrorism. We ask Muslims to fight shoulder to shoulder with the nationalist forces," the RSS joint general secretary, Mr. Madan Das, said in an interview with the Sangh mouthpiece *Panchjanya*.

Mr. Das said that religious fundamentalism was alien to the Indian soil. "We want that all religions and ideologies to tread their own paths with peace.

There should be no hesitation in countering those who do not subscribe to this understanding," he said. — UNI

SEP 2001

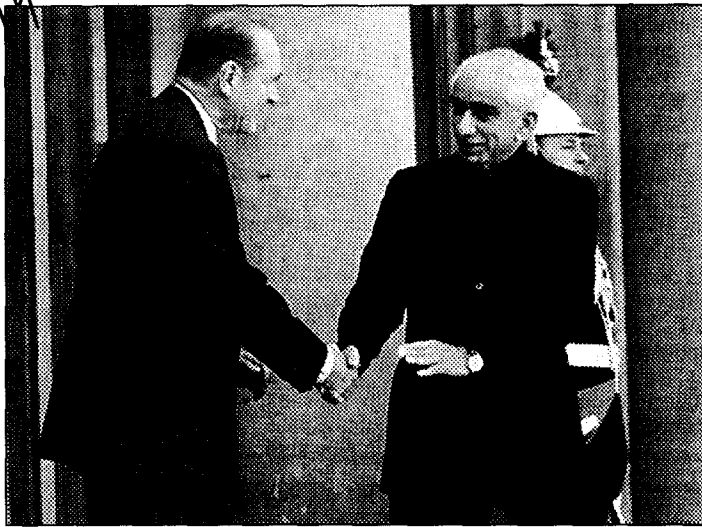
Atal lashes out at US terror turnaround

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Sept. 28: Breaking his long silence, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today blamed the US for not speaking out against terrorism when India was facing the brunt of the menace in Jammu and Kashmir.

"When I addressed the US Congress I told them that we are the victims of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. I told them about the bloodshed and the loss of innocent lives. But apart from sympathy, they had nothing else to offer," Vajpayee said. "They thought if India was subject to terrorist attacks, let it be. After all, they were living in peace. Perhaps, they thought Jammu and Kashmir was far away."

Vajpayee poured his heart out to a gathering of Muslim intellectuals at his 7 Race Course Road residence this afternoon. Though his main objective was to reassure them that the government's decision to ban the Students' Islamic Movement of India was not a move against Muslims in general, Vajpayee's criticism seemed to be aimed at the Americans who were speaking "so eloquently against terrorism today".



Foreign minister Jaswant Singh greets French President Jacques Chirac in Paris. (AFP)

Vajpayee said: "Terrorism has scant regard for distance. It does not respect either religion or reason or human life." But he stressed that even in this hour of crisis no one should equate Islam with terrorism.

Vajpayee's statement comes at a time when foreign minister Jaswant Singh is on his way to the US for talks with the George Bush administration on how the two sides could coordinate their fight against global terror.

Sources said one reason for the Prime Minister's outburst was to take care of the domestic audience. His initial offer of "all possible help" to the US after the September 11 aerial strikes had been interpreted by some sections as Delhi's readiness to extend its airbases and territory to American troops in their military offensive against the Taliban.

France also joined in the finger-pointing, making it clear that the terrorist strikes had created a situation where the international community had to make a more concerted effort in resolving the existing crisis, like the one in West Asia.

The remark is obliquely aimed at the Americans, who have been accused of double-standards by the Arab world and other key play-

ers for not pulling up Israel and forcing it to return to the talks table with Palestine.

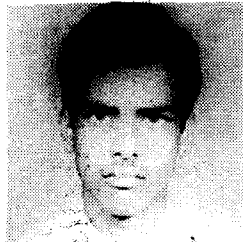
French ambassador Bernard Montferrand told reporters that Paris valued Delhi's views on the evolving situation and said the two countries should cooperate to combat the growing menace of terrorism. He was also quick to point out that unlike the US, France did not have a list declaring various outfits as terrorist groups. Instead, he said, its fight was against all terrorist activities anywhere in the world.

Jaswant, who is in Paris, has already held detailed discussions with President Jacques Chirac and senior government leaders about the fast-paced developments since Terrible Tuesday.

Montferrand stressed that the recent developments were a clear indicator to the threats that terrorists pose to "open societies and democracies" and the time had come when like-minded countries should form an international coalition against the scourge.

He blamed the Taliban for creating instability not only in the region but also in Europe, but made it clear that any move to "impose a regime from outside" might not be prudent.

INFORMATION WANTED



This is the Photograph of Bikash Mukherjee S/of Dharma Das Mukherjee of Pratappore, P.S. Laudaha Dist. Burdwan, who has been missing since 8.6.2001 from residence.

Description of this missing person is: Age 21 years, Complexion Medium, Height 5'-5", Wearing Black full pant & striped T-Shirt, Language Bengali.

Please inform whereabouts of the missing person & contact the Spl. Supdt. of Police, C.I.D. (WB), Bhawani Bhawan, Kolkata-700 027. ICA 3906(2)/2001

THE TELEGRAPH

29 SEP 2001

29 SEP 2001

India seeks proof against Bin Laden

SANJAY SINGH *gndv. vj*
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 28. - Political compulsions seem to have forced India to ask for "evidence" against Osama bin Laden.

Mr LK Advani made a request for proof against Bin Laden to the US ambassador in New Delhi, Mr Robert Blackwill, who met the home minister today.

Unlike the Arab and some other Asian countries, India had so far not demanded any evidence against the Saudi fugitive and offered all-out support to USA in its campaign against terrorism.

Mr Advani said: "We are committed to fight against terrorism and support the American campaign in this regard. But since the government has been getting queries from different quarters regarding what proof there was against Bin Laden and Al Qaida in the terrorist attacks in the USA, I raised the issue with Mr Blackwill this morning. Through our own experience over the years, I believe that when the American President is saying he had enough evidence to prove Bin Laden's involvement, he's speaking the truth."

"I understand the difficulty in making all evidence public when the investigations are in

■ See PROOF: page 8

THE STATESMAN

29 SEP 2001

PROOF: 23:9

(Continued from page 1)

51-8 9nd 43
an advanced stage. Some vital information could hamper the investigations. I still believe that the USA needs to assure the world with proof. America could withhold certain sensitive information and reveal other proof against Bin Laden so as take people into their confidence", Mr Advani said.

The home minister said the American envoy assured him that the Bush administration would take care to provide evidence and see that Indian sensitivities were not hurt. After his meeting with Mr Advani, Mr Blackwill said Indo-US relations had become more intense than ever and there was regular diplomatic and military Intelligence exchange, which is very useful.

THE STATESMAN

10/10/01

US Air Force plane refuels at Delhi airport

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, September 28

A US Air Force Hercules C-130 military transport aircraft re-fuelled at the Palam Technical Area here this afternoon before resuming journey to join the massing of US-led forces across the northern border of Afghanistan.

Government sources were tight-lipped about whether there were troops on board the aircraft. It landed about noon, and took off for the Parka air base in Tajikistan after refuelling here.

"The Hercules C-130 aircraft was on an inter-theatre airlift mission," a highly-placed IAF officer said. He did not specify whether the "tactical airlift" was of troops or military equipment. "This aircraft is often used for paratropping troops and equipment," he added.

Ministry of External Affairs sources said the American request for refuelling was made late morning. "It was quickly processed through the mechanism of a Joint Secretary Coordination, which is permanently in place. Instructions were conveyed to the IAF, which arranged for the refuelling at its Palam Technical Area base," a senior Foreign Ministry officer disclosed.

The US had earlier requested India for facilitating its air mobility command movements, taking up India on its offer of help in the "fight against terrorism".

"This (air mobility command movements) is to facilitate shifting of military assets from one theatre to another, in this case for the military build-up around Afghanistan," he explained.

The officer sought to play down the Indian military assistance to the US, the first such facilitation after US warplanes were allowed to refuel at Mumbai during the Gulf War.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

29 SEP 2001

and

No promises to U.S.: PM

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 27. The Government's bid to evolve a national consensus on the looming Afghan crisis received a shot in the arm with all the major Opposition parties extending support to it at a meeting here today.

The Government used the occasion to set at rest speculation on the nature of India's involvement in the proposed U.S. action in Afghanistan. Addressing the meeting, the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, made it clear that India had not given any assurance either "directly or indirectly" on the use of its airbases. India's role was limited to intelligence-sharing with the U.S.

"We have given no direct or indirect assurance on making available airbases," Mr. Vajpayee told the meeting.

Mr. Vajpayee also sought the Opposition help to defeat efforts being made by vested interests to equate terrorism with Islam. The Opposition should campaign vigorously to disabuse people of the impressions that the campaign against terrorism was a civilisational war against Islam. "We must tell the people that Islam and terrorism have nothing in common," he said responding to Mr. Natwar Singh (Cong.), who drew his attention to the attempts being made to portray it as a civilisational war.

While pledging support to the

Government, the Opposition sounded a note of caution against deviating from the long-standing policy of non-alignment.

The Government should take the lead in activating the non-aligned countries and ensure that the United Nations and its Secretary-General were totally involved in the global action against terrorism.

Briefing newsmen after the two-and-a-half-hour-long meeting, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, said the Government had made it clear that it was not under any illusion and was not depending on anyone in its fight against terrorism.

'Unseemly haste': Page 14

THE HINDU

23 SEP 2001

India-America ties special: Blackwill ■ Lashkar firm on jihad ■ Jaswant meets Rumsfeld next week

Kashmir hope in US stand

57-8 279

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

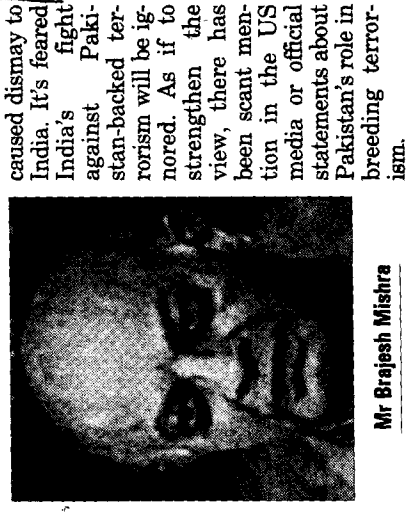
WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, Sept. 26. — The USA has assured India that it would target terrorist groups in other parts of the world after the military campaign against Osama bin Laden.

Indian diplomats here said senior US officials told the visiting national security adviser, Mr Brajesh Mishra, that though Washington's immediate concern was to smother the terrorists responsible for the 11 September attacks, "that won't be the end of the story."

In Delhi, the US ambassador said the world community was unanimous that terrorism had to be fought everywhere. But, as an initial step, the focus is on Afghanistan's terrorist network and export of terror from there.

"USA is determined to treat South Asia in a non-hypocritised way. We're treating India-US ties separate from any other relationship and what we're seeing in the US-India frontier is not connected to events occurring in Pakistan."

The USA has enlisted Pakista-



Mr Brajesh Mishra

A list of terrorist groups published by the USA on Monday in an attempt to block funds supply to them doesn't include any organisations active in Kashmir. For many years, the state department's annual report on global terrorism has been listing Harakat-ul-Ansar and other groups active in Kashmir and mentioned Pakistan's support for them.

Sources said Mr Mishra had warned US officials against making a distinction between al-Qaida and other terrorist groups that might have links with Bin Laden. He has reportedly told them: "Any distinc-

caused dismay to India. It's feared against Pakistan-backed terrorism will be ignored. As if to strengthen the view, there has been scant mention in the US media or official statements about Pakistan's role in breeding terrorism.

On India's offer of support to an war on terrorism, he said: "We didn't have to ask for India's support as it was in the front row of those countries that immediately recognised the threat to the international system by this act (11 September attacks)... We've established an unprecedented degree of cooperation with India to fight terrorism."

The external affairs and defence minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, is scheduled to meet the US secretary of state, Gen Colin Powell, and defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, next week. He'll fly to Paris tomorrow night, and then to Washington via New York.



The Bhopal Gas Victims Women's Organisation rallied against terrorism in Bhopal on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

India, U.S. ties now like never before: Blackwill

By C. Raja Mohan

ND-1 *India us*
NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26. The U.S. wants to build separate relationships with India and Pakistan and ties with one should not be viewed through the prism of the other, the U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Robert Blackwill, said here. In his first press conference, Mr. Blackwill, who arrived here a couple of months ago, sought to dispel the perception that since the terrorist attacks against America two weeks ago, Pakistan had once again become the main focus of U.S. policy in the subcontinent.

Mr. Blackwill asserted that U.S. relations with India and Pakistan "do not lend themselves to an innings by innings score-card on who is ahead". The U.S. welcomed the "unprecedented cooperation" by India in the fight against terrorism and was "gratified" that Pakistan too had joined the war. Mr. Blackwill said the relationship between India and the U.S. had been "transformed in many practical ways" since September 11. This would have happened in any case but the attacks had "accelerated" the process.

India and the U.S. were now engaged in cooperation "unthinkable even a month ago". The envoy pointed to the "intensity, frequency and transparency" of exchanges between the two Governments at the diplomatic, intelligence and military levels.

On the Indian offer of support to the U.S. military operations against Afghanistan, Mr. Blackwill said Washington had not made any request so far. When the U.S. made up its mind on the military strategy to be adopted, it could come up with specific requests.

Technical ties

Asked about the prospect of technological cooperation following the lifting of sanctions, Mr. Blackwill said "prohibitions will remain" on transfers of technology related to India's nuclear weapon and missile programmes. But access to a full range of other technologies of interest to India might be easier. Bilateral defence cooperation too was likely to get a boost. Responding to the scepticism in India that Washington might want to wage war only against those extremist groups threatening its own security, Mr. Blackwill reiterated the U.S. position that "there are no good terrorists or bad terrorists, but only terrorists".

On the possibility of expanding the U.S. list of terrorist organisations to include those operating in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Blackwill said as Washington scrutinised the activities of various groups, "there will be an evolution of the list".

THE HINDU

27 SEP 2001

Indo-U.S. ties turn prickly over 'our terrorism, their terrorism'

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Despite a public show of goodwill, Indo-U.S. ties have unexpectedly entered choppy waters following the September 11 terrorist attack. India is finding some of Washington's new policies and pronouncements relating to the subcontinent incomprehensible and galling. The latest among these is the Bush administration's reluctance to identify and name several terrorist groups operating out of Pakistan in Kashmir while ostensibly launching a worldwide campaign against terrorism.

The issue has figured in talks between India's National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra and top U.S. officials, which are now under way. U.S. officials

are saying it is difficult to make the connection between a well-known terrorist organisation like the Al-Qaida and the raft of outfits operating in Kashmir, "some of them indigenous".

The Indian side has responded that "they all come from the same swamp" and have the same ideological orientation. A terrorist who works for the Al-Qaida one day can be with the Al-Badr the next day and the Lashkar-e-Toiba on the third. Or the other way around. It is a stalemate for now.

However, the talks between the two sides have been delicate and understanding rather than testy or confrontational. U.S. officials are saying this is just the first phase of their battle against terrorism that will be long and sustained. Indian officials are saying they understand

Washington's need to keep Pakistan and its ruling dispensation on their side. There is an unspoken and uncharted ground in between.

Privately, some Indian officials and analysts are edgy that Washington is allowing Pakistan, at least on the surface, "to get away with its brazen espousal of extremist and militaristic thinking by positing it as an ally against terrorism now. The U.S. reluctance to subscribe to the Indian belief that Pakistan is the ideological fount of terrorism was more evident in briefings here on Monday by American officials during which they skirted questions about Islamabad's complicity in the situation".

Some analysts say Indian diplomacy has also failed to make the case forcefully.

The easiest way to learn computers

YOU SAID IT by Laxman



So sorry, the latest rules are fountain pen, toothbrush, comb, are also not allowed!

India offended by US media reports

Describing end of sanctions as reward is offensive: MEA

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 24: India on Monday was offended by description of waiving of sanctions against New Delhi as a "reward" for its cooperation in fight against terrorism, by a section of the Western media.

India is one of the few countries in the world to extend full support to the US in the fight against terrorism. New Delhi's prompt response was referred to as providing a "blank cheque" to the US.

However, the ministry of external affairs has now taken objection to the reports in the Western media. The MEA said on Monday that the description of waiving of sanctions against India as a "reward" was offensive to New Delhi because of its principled stand against international terrorism.

"Besides being an offensive and a patronising way of describing India's principled and decades-long stand against terrorism, this (comments in the US media) completely mixes the essentials of building an international coalition against terrorism," said an MEA official.

The official said that India had been engaged in a war against terrorism for well over decades now. Around 53,000 families of innocents were the sufferers of this terrorism in the country.

"We say to these media channels — please recognise that a nation of over one billion people as the world's largest functioning

democracy, needs no rewards for the stand it takes on issues of principle," the official asserted, adding: "the only recompense is the widest possible international coalition against terrorism and eradication of this evil."

The official said that India had never regarded its healthy "growing relationship with the US through the constricted prism of US-Pakistan relations." The official said that to do so would be to diminish the continuing validity and the growing importance of Indo-US relations. Reflecting India's lukewarm response to Washington's decision to lift sanctions, the official said: "We had expected this all along. The fact that lifting of sanctions was imminent was known to us for some time. We have welcomed the US administration's decision to do away with what we call restrictive economic measures."

The official said that India and the US would be able to better focus on the task of strengthening their partnership in a multifaceted manner. "This is particularly so at the present juncture when both India and the US have decided to focus their energies in building and energising international coalition against terrorism," the official said. Unlike Pakistan, India has shrugged off lifting of sanctions as something expected all along. The MEA officials did not even respond to the questions about the timing of waiving of sanctions against Pakistan, saying the ministry would not like to comment on the issue.



OSAMA IS IN MY POCKET: A newspaper with the photograph of Osama bin Laden in the back pocket of a man at the Mahalaxmi station. Laden has been accused of masterminding the attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. A photograph by Gajanan Dudhalkar

India to extend, refuelling and medical help to US forces

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 24: Although no request has been received from Washington, India is ready to extend refuelling, landing, medical and over flight facilities to United States forces in the event of it carrying out air strikes on Afghanistan.

A senior defence ministry official stated here on Monday that though there has been no formal request from United States, offering these facilities will not be a new phenomena since New Delhi had agreed to such facilities even during the Gulf War in 1991.

He stated that India will even consider providing air mobility command movement facilities (shifting of strategic air command centres) for operations against terrorist bases in Afghanistan, if a formal request is made asserting that New Delhi is totally with Washington as far as moves are concerned to fight growing menace of international terrorism.

"We have well laid out procedures in the external affairs and defence ministries to work out once such requests are made," the official said adding that for further dimensions of cooperation and details can be worked out after government's clearance.

The official said if Pakistan provides bases to the US-led forces, then India may not be required to offer any such assistance. He further stated that New Delhi has extended fullest cooperation to the US investigators to probe the recent terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Referring to the developments in Afghanistan, he said Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf is trying to pre-empt India. He added that, "New Delhi has no such compulsions against Islamabad." He clarified that India's attitude is benign and aimed at ensuring that no hurdles are put in US-led efforts to fight terrorism.

Brajesh in US to meet Rice, others

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 24: National security adviser Brajesh Mishra was expected to meet his US counterpart Condoleezza Rice in Washington later on Monday. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has sent Mr Mishra to the US to discuss cooperation on terrorism between the two nations.

A senior MEA official said that apart from Ms Rice, Mr Mishra is also expected to meet senior officials of the US state department. The decision to send Mr Mishra to Washington was taken after Prime Minister Vajpayee spoke to President George W. Bush last week. Mr Mishra, who was in Moscow to hold talks with the Russian leadership, was asked to leave for

Washington. Officials said that Mr Mishra's visit to the US assumes significance as New Delhi had extended full cooperation to the US in combating terrorism. As part of the effort to engage the US on the crucial issue of international terrorism, external affairs and defence minister Jaswant Singh is also travelling to the US to hold talks with US secretary of state Colin Powell. Mr Singh expected to be in the US on October 2 from where he would leave for England and France.

India was one of the first countries in the world which offered full support to the US in its fight against terrorism. India is also lobbying democratic nations to form a united front against terrorism.

India and the US have already exchanged

intelligence inputs on the issue and Mr Mishra will cover all the aspects of relationship between the two countries to deal with the crucial issue.

Mr Mishra will hold talks with his US counterpart in the backdrop of waiving of sanctions against India.

President George W. Bush on Sunday had announced waiving of sanctions against both India and Pakistan. The sanctions were imposed after the two nations conducted nuclear tests in 1998.

Analysts in New Delhi have expressed worries about a new relationship building between Washington and Islamabad, especially as Pakistan has emerged as a frontline state for the US in its fight against terrorism.

THE ASIAN AGE

25 SEP 2001

A boost to Indo-U.S. defence ties

By Sandeep Dikshit

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24. India's defence ties with the U.S. are expected to look up following the decision to lift sanctions. But no immediate spectacular results are anticipated, according to senior Defence Ministry officials.

Although sanctions were creating problems for substantial contacts in bilateral military ties, the two countries had continued with exchanges at other levels.

A consequential fall-out of the removal of sanctions would be the reactivation of the Defence Policy Group (DPG) which envisages closer contacts between the Defence Secretaries of the two countries aimed at creating closer military ties.

An important sub-group of the DPG called the Joint Technology Group may also resume its role of facilitating increased military sales and technological cooperation, they added.

India is counting on the signing of the GSOMIA (General Security of Military Information Agreement) which is an administrative pre-requisite for the resumption of the DPG. The GSOMIA ensures that visiting military officers of both countries maintain the confidentiality of information and military systems they are familiarised with.

Officials said a time-frame of six months had been set and the GSOMIA may be concluded by the end of this year or the first quarter of 2002.

Although sanctions will give an impetus to higher level exchanges, the two countries had all along been working on creating bridges between their armed forces through greater involvement in training programmes. But in the area of defence development and research, officials did not expect the waiver of sanctions

to lead to very substantial benefits. Their lack of enthusiasm was due to constraints that would persist on American exports of dual-use technology items (which could be used for developing nuclear weapons and missiles).

The U.S. might continue with the restrictions on business with 151 Indian firms (pared from the original list of 212 companies) although officials said that efforts were on to further reduce the list.

Specifically, India could gain in four defence related areas due to the lifting of the sanctions. It might receive the flight control systems of the light combat aircraft (LCA) that had been sent to the U.S. for evaluation but were impounded after the Pokhran tests.

The U.S. was also expected to permit its companies to export weapon locating radars as well as engines for the advanced light helicopter. The ban on servicing of the Navy's Sea-King helicopters in the U.K. was also likely to be lifted.

Washington was also poised to allow the export of components for the advanced jet trainer (AJT). But this permission might become irrelevant because New Delhi was exploring alternatives from Brazil, Italy and Russia as it was not satisfied with the price offered for the short-listed British Hawk AJT. A Foreign Office spokesperson later pointed out that India had never "refracted its relationship" with the U.S. through U.S.-Pak ties.

"The sanctions did not impact on our well-being and we wish the people of Pakistan well. We would not like to critique on how the lifting of sanctions would impact Pakistan."

Essential point missed

The Foreign Office today reacted sharply to reports in the west-

ern media which suggested that the lifting of sanctions was a "reward" for India's whole-hearted support to the U.S. after the September 11 bombings.

"In our view, besides being an offensive and patronising way of describing India's principled and decades-long stand against terrorism, such reports completely miss the essential point of building an international coalition against terrorism," said an Foreign Office spokesperson.

"Through such attacks (in the media), you cannot fight terrorism. We want to make it abundantly clear that India has been engaged in a war against terrorism for well over two decades now. Over 53,000 families of innocents are the sufferers of this terrorism in India," she added.

PM convenes NDA meet

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 24. With the situation continuing to be fluid in the region since the terrorist attacks in the U.S. on September 11, the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, has convened another round of meetings with his NDA colleagues and leaders of major opposition parties.

While the NDA meeting will be held on September 26, the conclave with the Opposition has been fixed for the next day.

This would be the second interaction between Mr. Vajpayee and political parties on the issue. He had convened an all-party meeting on September 15, four days after the tragedy.

The earlier meeting had backed the Government on steps to combat terrorism, but cautioned it against taking any measure that may affect national security.

THE HINDU

7 5 SEP 2001

Lifting of curbs not a reward, says India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 24. - India today rubbished reports terming Washington's decision to lift post-Pokhran sanctions against India as a "reward" for helping it to fight terrorism. It is not only an "offensive and patronising way" of describing India's "principled" stand on terrorism but betrays an attitude with which "you cannot fight terrorism", New Delhi said.

The world's largest functioning democracy "needs no rewards for the stand that it takes on issues on principles", it said, an apparent effort to draw a dis-

tinction with Pakistan. Pakistan had reportedly asked for lifting of sanctions when the USA sought its cooperation to fight terrorism.

An offensive and patronising way of describing India's principled stand on terrorism, this description by the western media "completely misses the essentials of building an international coalition against terrorism. Through such an attitude, you cannot fight terrorism," the external affairs spokesperson said.

The only recompense for India is the "widest possible international coalition against terror-

ism and eradication of this evil from our lives," she said. She expressed confidence that the USA would, some time later, also look at terrorism in J&K.

"It is clear that India has been engaged in a war against terrorism for well over two decades now," she said. "We have never regarded a healthy and growing relationship with the USA through a constricted prism of US-Pakistan relations," she said. "To do so would be to diminish the continuing validity and importance of US-India relations."

Washington's decision to lift sanctions would enable India

and the USA to "better focus on the task of strengthening their partnership in a multi-faceted manner," the spokesperson said. "Particularly so at the present juncture when both India and the USA have decided to focus their energies concertedly in building and energising international coalition against terrorism."

The lifting of sanctions would ease some immediate difficulties but there would be no major changes for the Indian defence sector, senior officials said today.

Controls on the transfer of critical technologies will remain in

place on account of a series of international regimes, they said. However, some major indigenous research and development projects had borne fruit in defiance of the sanctions.

The "fight against terrorism" may have influenced US decision to lift sanctions but its current preoccupation with this issue could delay the most visible symbol of Indo-US military cooperation, Ex-Malabar. The major joint naval exercises - suspended since 1998 - are unlikely during this post-monsoon season since the US Navy would have other tasks in hand. The immediate gain will be

progress on the joint development of the flight control system for the Light Combat aircraft. The system had been sent to the US for evaluation and testing, and remained in limbo there after India exercised its nuclear option.

Engines for the Advanced Light Helicopter will be another relief. The German "substitutes" have not proved as efficient as desired. The scrapping of sanctions will also make available spares for the GE 404 engines with which the LCA is fitted pending the development of the indigenous Kaveri power pack.

25 SEP 2001

THE STATESMAN

India not affected by US stand

K A Badarinath
New Delhi, September 23

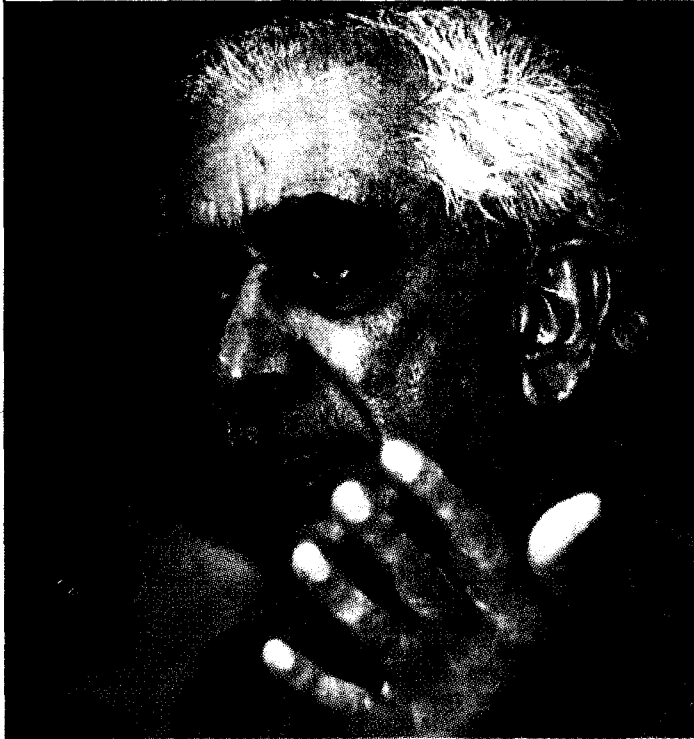
LIFTING OF sanctions by US after Pokhran nuclear blasts in 1998, may not be of much consequence to India as punitive provisions were already nullified by the Clinton administration.

Two major areas where there could be some relief to India would be dual use technologies and international lending by multi-lateral agencies like World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML), Larsen & Turbo (L&T), Godrej Boyce, Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL) and Kirloskar which figured among list of 39 Indian companies identified by US administration not to be dealt with, will breath a sigh of relief.

Even for these companies, the impact was not either "earth-shaking" or "adverse" in terms of revenues. But, definitely, it would be a psychological booster for corporates.

Export and import of "dual use technologies" which has hitherto been banned by US even for civilian use would now be open to India. With regard to defence supplies, lifting the sanctions, it will be easier for Indian defence establishment to go shop-



Minister for Defence and External Affairs Jaswant Singh at a Press meet on Friday said India was not worried about the US Government's decision to lift sanctions on Pakistan after its pledge to assist the US.

ping for its "mission critical high tech components" especially in missiles development projects and spares for the existing hardware. Psychologically, no doubt

India will have an advantage in export markets. In particular, it make research in space, biotechnology and chemicals having dual uses easier with free

exchange of information and data world-wide.

In the case of foreign lending, the US-exim and other American lending agencies had already diluted the impact of sanctions on exposure in Indian projects. But, definitely, it will be easier for these American lending agencies to take exposure in Indian projects on principles of commercial jurisprudence.

With regard to world bank and ADB, already loans were sanctioned to India "on humanitarian grounds". But, flow of funds from these agencies to power sector, roads and highways were definitely affected. For instance the US \$ 400 million loan of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) was blocked at a board meeting of World Bank as US representatives vetoed the same. Similarly, NTPC's fund flow under "time slice arrangement" was delayed. ADB's second line of credit worth US \$ 500 million was inordinately delayed. Though large chunks of "golden Quadrangle" highway project connecting North-South-East-Western regions was posed to World Bank, alternative sources of funds were being lined up by NHDP due to sanctions. These proposals may see the light of the day in case India was still interested in sourcing its funds from these multi-lateral bodies.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

24 SEP 2001

Only post-nuclear curbs to go, clarifies Powell ■ A good but expected decision, feels Delhi

USA lifts sanctions on India, Pak

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23. — Mr George W Bush yesterday lifted sanctions against India and Pakistan after both countries promised to support the USA in its war against the Taliban.

(The US secretary of state, Gen Colin Powell, said the removal of sanctions was partial. The post-nuclear sanctions were being lifted but other sanctions would remain, he made it clear in an interview to ABC-TV, adds PTI).

Yesterday, India said it would consider offering refuelling facilities to US air force planes in case of strikes against Afghanistan. Gen. Pervez Musharraf has offered to help the US offensive against the Taliban despite widespread opposition at home. "I hereby determine and certify to the Congress that the application to India and Pakistan of the sanctions and prohibitions contained in ... the Arms Export Control Act would not be in the national security interests of the USA," Mr Bush said in a memorandum.

Washington was already in the process of lifting sanctions against India, imposed after India and Pakistan tested nuclear weapons in 1998. However, until recently, there was no sign of any relief for Pakistan, which faced more sanctions after Gen. Musharraf overthrew a democratically elected government in 1999.

The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on 11 September changed the equations since USA needs Pakistan's support to wage a war against the Taliban. The Taliban is believed to be sheltering Osama bin Laden who has been named the prime suspect by the USA in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. More than 6,800 people are believed to be missing or dead in the attack, including more than 250 Indians. Sanctions against India and

Pakistan included bans on foreign assistance, munitions sales and licenses, government credits and financial assistance, and US support for multilateral financial assistance. In 1999, sanctions against India relating to US government programs and commercial transactions were waived. A few sanctions against Pakistan were waived at the time, limited to purchasing food and other agricultural commodities.

When Washington began building up an international coalition to fight terrorism, and destroy Bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan, Pakistan had to be a prime ally since it's one of the three countries with diplomatic relations with the Taliban.

Faced with threats of more sanctions and possible attacks if it did not cooperate, Gen. Musharraf decided to help the USA in its military campaign. But the nation has been witnessing widespread protests by pro-Taliban groups.

A report in the *Washington Times* said Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence, which has always supported the Taliban and the terrorist camps, is now encouraging the protests. People are being given Rs 50 to 80 to participate in the protests, and Rs 200 to throw stones at the police, the report said. If the report is true, Gen. Musharraf might face a revolt over Pakistan's participation in or support for the war against terrorism.

India welcomes move: India today welcomed the Bush administration's decision to lift sanctions, saying it was an "expected" development and a good decision "in principle", a report from New Delhi said. But some political parties have expressed other views.

The Congress said: "It will make no difference to India". The industry has hailed the move as a "psychological boost" to the economy. The external affairs minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, said it was a welcome development. "It's



Taliban soldiers check the papers of a driver in Kabul on Sunday. — AP/PTI (More photographs on page 5)

something which was expected," he told reporters. The external affairs ministry spokesperson issued a guarded statement. "In principle, it is a good decision," she said.

The finance minister, Mr Yashwant Sinha, described the move as a "good thing" but said it would hold little meaning for the economy. As far as the economy is concerned, it is a minor issue as the sanctions had spent themselves out, he said.

India is awaiting more details of the sanctions which were lifted

by the US administration. The scientific community would benefit most in the field of research and development of

Editorials: Musharraf's moves; Changing frontiers, page 6

More reports on pages 5, 8 & 11

strategic weapons and space programme. India feels Pakistan will benefit more from the lifting of the

sanctions. The Congress, the Samata Party and the JD-U today said Pakistan would be able to import defence equipment from the USA which would tilt the balance of power in the sub-continent in its favour.

Pak reaction: Pakistan today termed as a "positive step" US announcement to lift sanctions against the country, adds PTI from Islamabad.

This would speed up its economic activities and facilitate the much-needed foreign investments. "It is a positive step

and we appreciate it," a Pakistani foreign office statement said. The Pakistan finance minister, Mr Shaukat Aziz, said the lifting of sanctions would enable USA to vote in favour of Pakistan at the crucial Board of Governors meetings of IMF and World Bank and facilitate American investment in the country.

Clinton says he had ordered Osama's killing

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23. — Mr Bill Clinton has admitted that he had ordered the capture and possible assassination of Osama bin Laden, who, Washington believes, masterminded the strikes on 11 September.

Mr Clinton told reporters in New York that he gave the go-ahead for the clandestine operation immediately after the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es Salaam — attacks for which Bin Laden has since been indicted in the USA.

"We actually contacted a group in Afghanistan to kill Osama." They were unsuccessful, Mr Clinton said.

He said his administration had also begun training commandos for a possible ground assault aimed at capturing or killing Bin Laden, but adequate intelligence and support from key governments was lacking.

'UK commandos' in Afghanistan'

LONDON, Sept. 23. — A four-member team of Britain's elite commando force, SAS, which had gone to Afghanistan to gather information about Osama bin Laden, has come under attack from Taliban forces outside Kabul, triggering an exchange of fire, media reports here said today. The team, known as "brick", exchanged fire with Taliban fighters in the foothills of Kabul on Friday. The defence ministry and Downing Street made no comments. — PTI

Lifting of sanctions: M consults top colleagues

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23. The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, held an informal meeting with three of his senior colleagues at his residence this morning after reports came in from Washington that the economic sanctions, imposed against India after the May 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, were being lifted by the United States. It seems the Government has taken the news in its stride; certainly, there was no sign of an enthusiastic welcome.

Although a formal meeting of the Union Cabinet has been scheduled for tomorrow, where the Government will review the latest development, the Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, the External Affairs and Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and the Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, met to discuss the situation, including the likely fallout of a war in the neighbourhood.

It is not known what exactly transpired at the hour-long meeting but reaction to the news indicated some disappointment over the fact that the lifting of sanctions against India had been tagged on to a similar action in favour of Pakistan. Although this was not said at the Government level, the Bharatiya Janata Party indicated as much while welcoming the lifting of sanctions quite unenthusiastically.

Mr. Sinha is reported to have said later that the Government was drawing up a "contingency

plan" to meet the expected global impact of the impending U.S.-led war against Afghanistan. This had become all the more important because the U.S. had indicated that the "war" could be a protracted one. The news of the lifting of sanctions was described by him to a news agency as "not earth-shaking."

The existing economic slowdown was not going to be helped by a fresh dose of taxes and that did not seem to be on Mr. Sinha's mind. In fact, he is reported to have told a news agency that fresh taxes were ruled out for the moment. On the other hand, the Government was thinking more in terms of incentives for exporters.

Even Mr. Jaswant Singh was less than effusive. He simply said the lifting of sanctions was not unexpected and that he welcomed it. As for Mr. Advani, he had been repeatedly saying that for several years India was trying to impress upon the U.S. the need to take note of global terrorism; it had done so only after the September 11 attack in New York and Washington.

The Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, is scheduled to have meetings with some key U.S. officials in Washington tomorrow and the day after. India will then get some first-hand feedback on the situation.

'Laws in place to tackle money-laundering'

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23. Laws in India have enough powers to deal with hawala transactions and the non-passage of a money-laundering bill will not come in the way of preventing terrorism-funding, the Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, said today. "The passage of the money-laundering bill will strengthen the hands of the executives. At the moment wherever money-laundering takes place, we have laws in place to take care of it," he said during an interactive session with the PTI journalists.

The idea of having the bill in place was to be able to fall in line with the international convention on money-laundering.

"I believe and support constant vigil on that front which will be necessary to ensure that people don't take advantage because even if the money-laundering bill were to be in place, it would just create an additional fear in the minds of perpetrators," Mr. Sinha said.

'Pak. will be the real beneficiary'

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23. Washington's decision to lift the post-Pokhran sanctions against India received a lukewarm welcome from political parties today even as the fact that the Bush administration chose to announce a similar concession to Islamabad was not lost, a point rubbed in by almost all the parties.

The Bharatiya Janata Party said the move would not make much difference since the imposition of sanctions in 1998 had had little impact on the country. The party was cautious in making any further observation on the move since it was not yet clear whether similar facility was being granted in high-technology areas.

Mr. Jagdish Shettigar, convener of the BJP's economic cell and member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, said a positive aspect would be that American companies tying up with the Government for specific projects would have access to funds from U.S. banks which was not available in the wake of the sanctions. He said that in the absence of credit support from U.S. banks, the companies had to depend on Indian banks. Mr. Shettigar also felt that overall, the move could have a positive effect but expressed unhappiness that India was linked with Pakistan.

The BJP Parliamentary party spokesman, Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, while welcoming the move, felt that Pakistan was the real beneficiary of the U.S. decision.

The Opposition parties too were less than enthusiastic, preferring to see the development as a reflection of American quid pro quo to Pakistan for its support in Washington's fight against terrorism. India at best was the spin-off beneficiary, they felt.

The Congress said the decision would make no difference to India as the sanctions were proving counter-productive for Washington. Mr. K. Natwar Singh, chairman of the AICC foreign affairs department, said it was not on account of any "high principles" but the result of the U.S. decision to make

Pakistan a "strategic partner" in its global fight against terrorism.

The other opposition parties were equally muted in their response, with the CPI(M) Politburo member, Mr. Prakash Karat, stating that the move was good to the limited extent of lifting of the post-Pokhran sanctions. The other sanctions like on transfer of high technology, were still in place.

"It is indeed sad that America needed a development of this dimension for sanctions to be lifted and it seems to have been the result of American need to cooperate with countries of this region," another Politburo member, Mr. Sitaram Yechury, said. The CPI general secretary, Mr. A.B. Bardhan, said that till now the country was being told by the Government that sanctions did not affect the economy very much. "Going by that logic, lifting of sanctions will not mean a very substantial advance. It is a political gesture."

He said it should also be remembered that the United States had imposed sanctions or economic blockades on 40 countries and it had been lifted only in two countries. "If it is going to be a global fight, what about lifting of sanctions over the remaining countries?" he asked. The CPI national secretary, Mr. D. Raja, said the U.S. lifted the sanctions "in its own interest" since it was mobilising support in the fight against terrorism.

On the other hand, two NDA constituents, the Samata Party and the Janata Dal (United) were not enthused. The JD (U) general secretary, Mr. Mohan Prakash, described the move as a "friendly gesture" but said both countries had a long way to go. The Samata spokesman, Dr. Shambhu Shrivastwa, said the lifting of sanctions would not alter the ground situation. The only perceivable benefit, he said, was that it was a step towards "strengthening the process towards normalisation of relations between New Delhi and Washington." Nevertheless, Pakistan, he said, would be the main beneficiary of the U.S. decision.

A psychological boost: industry

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 23. The Indian industry today welcomed the lifting of sanctions saying it would help technology and product exports from the U.S., besides giving a psychological boost to increasing bilateral trade and investment.

While the sanctions did not materially impact India, the industry felt that its shadow had affected Indo-U.S. relations as well as the sentiment about bilateral trade and investment between the two countries. "Lifting of sanctions will actually help U.S. companies in their business with India because as long as the sanctions were in place, U.S. companies were inhibited in their investments in India and transfer of technology to Indian companies," said the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President, Mr. Sanjiv Goenka.

He said that initially, the U.S. Exim Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) were not permitted to

finance and underwrite U.S. companies doing business with India. This had impacted on their exports to India as well as investments and technology transfer. Even after the Exim and OPIC were allowed by the Clinton administration to deal with India, this inhibition contributed to limiting exports to India which had been flat.

India, meanwhile, had located alternate sources of products and technology. The removal of sanctions would free the trade environment which could now catch up with the excellent political relationship. The CII would now take new initiatives in spite of the global slowdown to increase trade and investments with the U.S., he added.

Mr. Goenka said Indo-U.S. business partnership had been transformed in the last few years. IT, pharma, insurance, banking and portfolio investments by Indian corporates in the U.S. were now the new backbone of Indo-U.S.

links. All these would be reinforced by the lifting of sanctions and traditional trade would gather a new momentum.

The Assocham president, Mr. Raghu Mody, while welcoming the move, felt that it would lead to greater cooperation and collaboration particularly in the fields of space, high technology and research laboratories. "It will also give tremendous boost to the Indian companies which had not been able to export due to their investments in the defence sector so far," he said.

The FICCI secretary general, Dr. Amit Mitra, said "the move will be a big psychological boost and encourage India to do more business with the U.S. However, the biggest beneficiaries will be the 39 large cutting edge technology companies and research laboratories including BHEL, Godrej and Boyce, Kirloskar Brothers and ECIL who will now be free to import any technology from their partners in the U.S.," he added.

Standing up to be counted

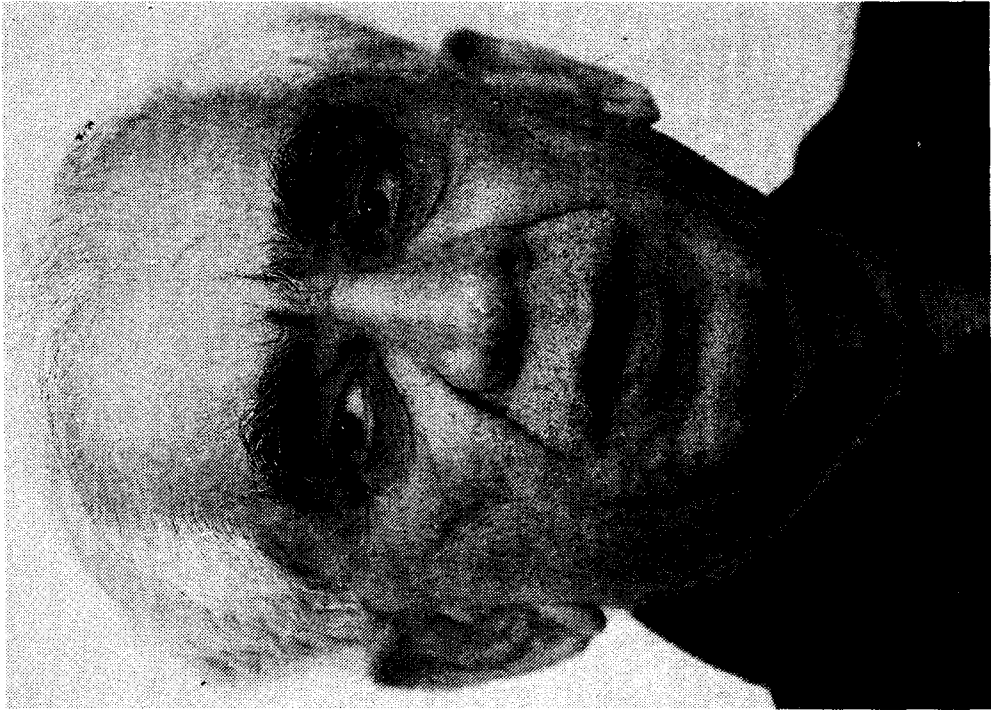
STUNNED BY the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, India offered unconditional support to the United States in the campaign against international terrorism. This basic position, however, has subsequently evolved and become nuanced in the light of internal and externally generated pressures.

India's total support to U.S. was evident from the day of the attack itself. The Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, in his letter to the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, last Tuesday itself, had declared that India stood "ready to cooperate with you in the investigations into this crime and to strengthen our partnership in leading international efforts to ensure that terrorism never succeeds again".

At a press conference the next day, held after the Cabinet Committee on Security constricted India's disposition to the event, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, clarified the national position further. The Prime Minister, he said, in his letter to Mr. Bush had stated that India's offer of assistance was "unambiguous and unconditional". At the press conference on September 12, he added that India was looking at rooting out and dismantling the 'terrorist' 'internationale' completely. "We have to go to the root and address the system that promotes such symptoms," he asserted.

The Prime Minister in his national address on Doordarshan further elaborated the need for a comprehensive campaign against terrorism on September 14. He asserted: "We must strike at the roots of the system that breeds terrorism. We must stamp out the infrastructure that imparts the perverse ideological poison by which the terrorist is fired up. We must hold Governments wholly accountable for the terrorism that originated from their countries."

While it is assumed that an emphasis on global campaign would also cover the jihadist bases in Jammu and Kashmir, official India's references to the perpetrators of violence in the border State have been indirect and restrained. In fact, a direct reference to Kashmir in official statements becomes discernible only in the Prime Minister's address on September 14. "For years, we in India have been alerting others to the fact that terrorism is a scourge for all of humanity, that what happens in Mumbai one day is bound to happen elsewhere tomorrow, that the poison that propels mercenaries and terrorists to kill and maim in

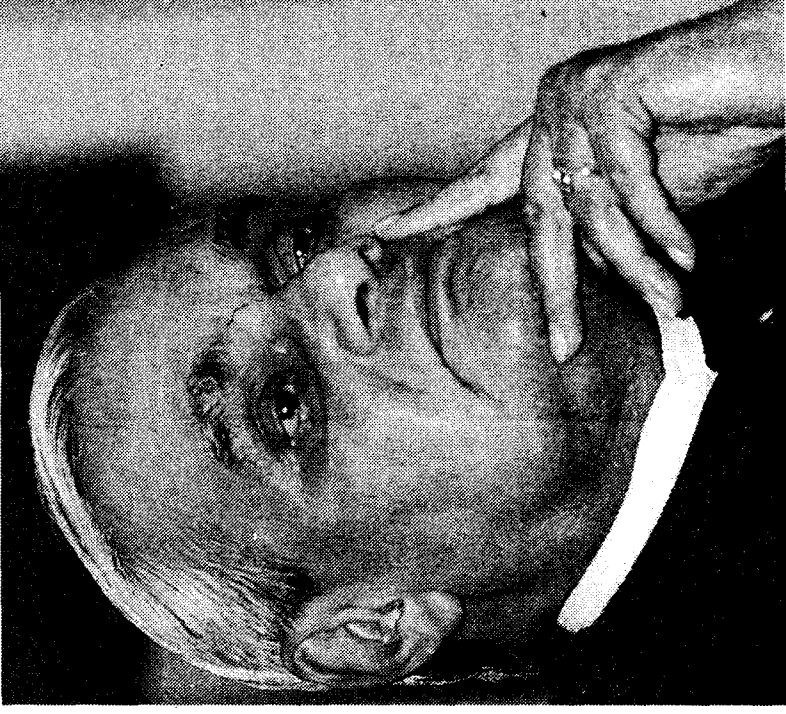


Atal Behari Vajpayee... walking the tightrope.

concentrated attempt to reach out to the Islamic world. Mr. Jaswant Singh's conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, on September 19 is significant because of Iran's extensive reach over Shia populations across the globe, including India. Mr. Singh during the call made it clear that India favoured Iran's participation in a multinational coalition — a move that could help Tehran break out of its over two-decade-old international isolation.

While stating its unstinted support to the U.S., India since September 16 has been urging military restraint in the counter-terrorism drive. The emphasis since then is on combining diplomatic, economic and military pressure to dismantle the international network of terrorists. Besides, India has begun to stress the need for collective action by a "concert of democracies" to make the campaign effective.

The focus on "jointness" is being seen as a response to India's stepped up interaction with Russia in the last week and the exhortations by the former Prime Ministers, Mr. V. P. Singh and Mr. Deve Gowda, along with the Left leaders that the India should endorse only a "legal" military action after it has been cleared by the United Nations.



Sonia Gandhi... advocating caution.

The Opposition and even some of its allies have reservations about the Government's response.

Harish Khare takes a look.

use of terror as an instrument of state policy by Pakistan.

The political parties, on their part, were obliged to express this larger public perception of Washington's selective righteous indignation over terrorism. Nor could they overlook the widespread public scepticism over the U.S.' mollycoddling of terrorist activities, masquerading as a "freedom struggle" in Jammu and Kashmir. But what alarmed them was the rhetoric of "crusade" heard from Washington. Also, the sporadic violence against the Americans of South Asian descent denied support for the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's cowboy approach.

More than anything else, what put the cat among the opposition pigeons was the reported remarks of the Foreign Minister, Mr. Jas-



tion in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress leaders were uncomfortable with the unilateralism implicit in the American response, without any reference to the United Nations regime.

A few days later, the Congress Working Committee passed a resolution noting: the CWC "will support a broad-based international coalition as envisaged in the Resolutions passed on 12th of September 2001 by the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly. The Congress Working Committee is of the view that any such international strategy must be credible, just, effective, sustainable and defensible in the eyes of the International law and world public opinion."

At the end of the September 15 consultation, as the Opposition leaders were trooping out, the Prime Minister made it a point to assert that the Government would be guided entirely by national interest. The Opposition doubts, however, remained unaddressed, given the Vajpayee regime's pro-Washington proclivities.

So acute were these doubts that even the Government's allies felt constrained to distance themselves just a little bit from Mr. Jaswant Singh's over-enthusiastic pro-Americanism. On September 18, the Prime Minister felt constrained to call a meeting of his Cabinet; but the allies remained unconvinced. The Samata Party, the key ally in the National Democratic Alliance, went out of its way to enter a caveat of its own.

The national mood changed when Gen. Pervez Musharraf made it clear that Pakistan's support to the U.S. against the Taliban was predicated on "the Kashmiri cause". The Samata Party's stand found an echo a few days later when the BJP president, Mr. Jana Krishnamurthi, also insisted on a truly "global" war against terrorism, which means that the international community would have to necessarily take note of the jihad violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP's traditional nationalist plank had to be protected.

Above all, what was also obvious was that the Vajpayee regime — like most regimes in the past — remained reluctant to use domestic public opinion in furthering its foreign policy objectives. Instead, there is an unnecessary anxiety to project before the world that the entire country is united behind the Government. Hence, there is no real movement forward towards cobbling a national consensus in the new war against terrorism.

want Singh, that India was prepared to offer "bases" to the American forces. Though the Government moved swiftly to deny any categorical statement to that effect, most political parties are not prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt, given Mr. Jaswant Singh's image as a man who would be only too happy to pull the Americans' chestnuts out of the fire.

These reservations manifested themselves when the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, called a meeting of the political parties on September 15. Two days earlier, the Prime Minister had taken care to brief Ms. Sonia Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, who was accompanied by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Leader of the Opposi-

Convincing US: Delhi wins Round One

■ Bush says what India wants to hear: General should move against Lashkar, Jaish leaders, finances, activities

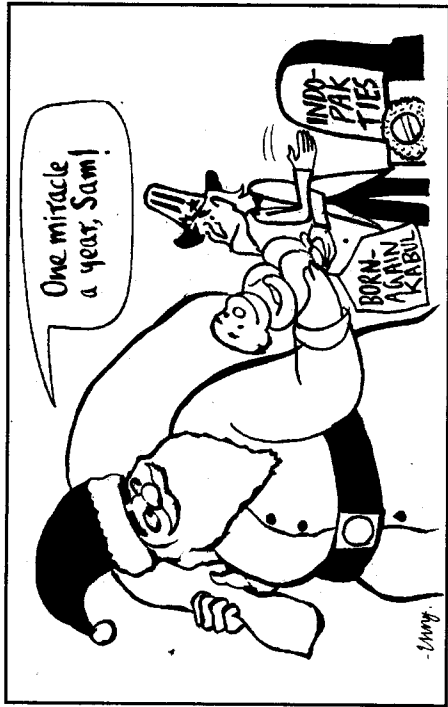
SONIA TRIKHA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 22

NEW Delhi achieved a major diplomatic breakthrough today with US President George Bush urging Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf to crack down on the Lashkar and the Jaish, the two groups involved in the December 13 attack on Parliament House. And take action against "their leaders, finances and activities."

The tension crackling in gov-

ernment circles subsided somewhat with this expression of support from Washington and there were indications this evening that India was prepared to give Pakistan time to comply with the demand for visible action.

The mollifying statement from Washington was issued by the White House spokesman late last night. He said, "The President calls on (Musharraf) to take action against the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Jaish-e-Mohammed and other terrorist organizations, their leaders and their finances. President



Musharraf has condemned the terrorist attacks on the legislature in Srinagar and on the Indian Parliament. He has said that he would move against those involved in the attacks. President Bush has every confidence in President Musharraf's capacity to act against the terrorists."

India reacted promptly with appreciation. "We welcome (Bush's) call to President Musharraf to take decisive action against Lashkar, Jaish and other Pakistan-based terrorist

CONTINUED ON PAGE

INDIAN EXPRESS

23 SEP 2001

23 SEP 2001

India will consider US refuelling plea

NEWS STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE 51 2 289

NEW DELHI, Sept. 22. - India will "consider" extending refuelling and other logistical facilities to the United States if requested by Washington in the wake of possible air strikes on Afghanistan, the home minister, Mr L K Advani, today told a private television channel.

"Although India was not directly involved in the Gulf War in 1991 it had agreed to provide refuelling facilities for American warplanes. In this case we have already acceded to the US request to give intelligence inputs on terrorist bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan besides extending moral and diplomatic support to it in its global war against terrorism. We will consider the request for refuelling and other facilities while keeping in mind India's sovereignty. India is backing the USA as it is directly affected by terrorism," Mr Advani said. He however, clarified the USA hadn't made any other demand.

Mr Advani said India-Pakistan talks couldn't be resumed as long as Islamabad continued to aid and abet terrorism in J&K and other places within the country.

Answering questions on Pakistan, Mr Advani said: "The Pakistani leadership is facing a Hobson's choice - supporting the USA and opposing the Taliban which it helped create... This could have serious repercussions in Pakistan. Some people have even talked about a civil war in Pakistan. I don't want to comment on the internal affairs of that country".

Recalling General Pervez Musharraf's description of terrorists in J&K as "freedom fighters" during the Agra summit, he said: "I feel pity for him. At this juncture, he may be leading the anti-jihadi forces in Pakistan."

Will India go on a "hot pursuit" to crush terrorist camps across the border taking a cue from the USA's resolve to fight terrorism? Mr Advani said in the coming weeks and months, a lot could happen in this direction with the US declaring that it would combat international terrorism and its networking.

THE STATESMAN

23 SEP 2001

Former PMs differ on support to US

Anju Sharma
New Delhi, September 21

TWO FORMER Prime Ministers today expressed divergent views on extending support to the US in the event of the proposed war against Afghanistan. While IK Gujral favoured giving all kinds of assistance, insisting that it was India's war too, VP Singh was categorically opposed to any logistic support to the Americans.

At best there should be intelligence sharing between the two countries, Singh said. Seeking a clarification from the Government, Singh asked if India was sure that the US would support its campaign against cross-border terrorism.

Speaking to *Hindustan Times*, Gujral said, India was already in a war-like situation against terrorism for over a decade. "In fact, it is the US which is joining this war, which India has been fighting over the years. So this is also our war since we have been the worst victims of terrorism," he said. Taking a line which was clearly at variance with his "friends" in the People's Front, Gujral said there was no problem in extending all kinds of co-operation to the US in fighting terrorism. "It is in India's interest to provide maximum facilities to end this terror".

Disagreeing with those asking the Government to tread carefully, Gujral said, "I am even ready to cooperate with the devil for ending terrorism in our country. A global coalition against terrorism is a vindication of India's

stand that the world should come together against this menace."

But Singh was against any Indian move to give military assistance to the US as this would undermine India's sovereignty and national interests. "Under no circumstances should the Government allow the use of our military bases, land or air space to foreign powers," he said. He expressed concern over media reports that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh had pledged unilateral support to the US.

Gujral said time and history have shown that Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will finally have to "lay off Kashmir." But at the same time he said it is in India's interest if Musharraf joins the war against the very forces (Taliban) which Pakistan has bred for the last several years.

Gujral, however, felt that not much should be read into Musharraf's India-bashing in his address to the nation which was aimed at his domestic constituency where he is facing difficulties.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

22 SEP 2001

2001

Rethink on Indo-US maritime exercise

INDIA WAS "rethinking" the proposed joint maritime exercise of its Coast Guards with those of France and USA in view of the "changed scenario" after the attacks on US. "France and US had approached us for a joint exercise. In the changed scenario we are rethinking on that," Director-General, Coast Guard, Rameshwar Singh told newsmen in Kolkata on Friday. France, US and Japan had shown interest for joint exercises with India to strengthen their coast guard to deal with growing maritime crime. India took part in a joint exercise with Japan in May, a recognition of the good work the Indian coast guard have done, he said.

PTI, Kolkata

Rajnish Sharma
New Delhi, September 21

THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation has sent India a list of 175 persons suspected to be involved in the conspiracy behind the recent terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in New York and Washington.

The list was forwarded late Thursday night to Deputy Director for Immigration and Joint Secretary, Security in the Intelligence Bureau, Airport Director, Deputy Commissioner of Police, IGI Airport, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Foreigners Regional Registration Office and

Station Managers of some international airlines.

Sources said the list, which primarily comprises Asian names, mostly Arabic, was prepared on basis of investigations conducted so far by the FBI and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"The basic reason behind sending the list is that the FBI feels that some of these suspects are now in Asia and probably in India.

Thus, they want the Indian security and intelligence agencies to sound an alert at all international airports in the country," a senior Immigration official said. Officials claimed the list is

FBI hands India list of 175 terror suspects

primarily a lookout notice with the request that a person whose name figures on the list should be detained at the airport. Sources said the FBI in certain cases had also sent photographs and given details like passport number, date of birth and addresses about some of the suspects.

A senior security official of Air India at the IGI Airport said they received the list around 8 on Thursday night.

"Since then we have put our staff at the check-in counters on alert. The staff has been given a list of the names and directed if any person with the name and passport number on the list

reports at the counters, the Immigration and police should be immediately informed," the official added.

In fact, a person, identified as Mujabir, was detained at the IGI Airport late last night since a similar name appeared on the list. He was subjected to intense questioning the entire night by a joint team of Delhi Police and IB at the airport. Mujabir was finally allowed to leave early Thursday morning.

Sources said the FBI and the FAA have been asked to provide some more details regarding the suspects. The FBI has forwarded a similar list to security agencies in some other Asian countries.

"Though the FBI has not given any reasons why it suspects that these suspects could be in Asia it apparently has strong evidence to believe so," an Immigration official added.

Meanwhile, the Immigration, which primarily comprises IB officials, has updated its computerised data on lookout notices. "Apart from the list sent by FBI we have our own record of militants and criminals who need to be detained at the airports," the official said.

The Immigration has also been directed to keep a close watch on movement of media persons, particularly those going abroad.

22 SEP 2001

22 SEP 2001

India-U.S. ties after Sept. 11

By Kanti Bajpai

India matters in a coalition dedicated to managing terrorism... The U.S. must spend some time thinking about how to reassure Indians.

HD-10
22/9

THERE ARE storm clouds gathering over India-U.S. relations. That is at least a growing impression amongst middle class Indians. A steadily enlarging view is that the U.S. has struck something like a deal with Pakistan in order to obtain its cooperation at a crucial juncture in U.S. history — as it did in the 1950s and 1980s — and that Indian concerns and anxieties are, in the end, dispensable. As a partisan of good India-U.S. relations, this is dismaying to say the least. Can anything be done to stem the rot? Yes, but the U.S. must act fairly quickly.

The U.S. Government and its diplomats in Delhi have tried to dispel the image that the U.S. is once again signing Pakistan up to a strategic relationship as a "frontline" state. Unfortunately, they have not succeeded. The U.S. administration has forthrightly denied that Washington has agreed to the various conditions that Islamabad has reportedly listed as a prerequisite for its cooperation in dealing with the aftermath of September 11. Nevertheless, Indian opinion once again is veering round to the cynical view that the U.S. has sold India down the Indus.

The U.S. anxiety to get Pakistan in its coalition of "moderate" Islamic influentials is understandable — politically, diplomatically, and militarily. And the benefits of having India in that coalition are unclear: what, after all, can India immediately do? Given India's domestic constraints, it may not be in a position to play much of a military role, and politically and diplomatically India may be a liability in cobbling together a coalition with moderate Islamic states including Pakistan.

But there is a longer-term consideration. India is the only democratic country that has dealt with terrorism of various kinds in Kashmir, in Punjab, and in the Northeast — with some success over 50 years, and therefore it stands as something of an example. It is also the largest developing country to offer to be part of the emerging international coalition. Finally, it is in a fight with Pakistan over Kashmir and has a stake in the outcome

of U.S. policies in the region. India therefore matters in a coalition dedicated to managing terrorism problem.

What should the U.S. and India do to salvage a situation that is deteriorating, at least in the eyes of the Indian public? Washington admittedly has a lot on its hands. But managing the emerging coalition is one of them, and if India is an important partner in that coalition then the U.S. must spend some time thinking about how to reassure Indians. The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, has indicated that, within limits, he is sensitive to Pakistani concerns; the U.S. must make a gesture or two towards Indian anxieties. Washington should do the following in the short and longer term.

First, as many times as necessary, the U.S. should publicly emphasise that it has not and will not do a deal with Pakistan that is inimical to Indian interests — in the din of Indian democratic politics, statements like these bear repetition so that they go home. At the moment, Indians are giving the U.S. the benefit of the doubt. At a time of national calamity in the U.S., it is hardly seemly for India to press the Bush administration. However, Indians have noticed that in the first three days after the attack, there was virtually no reference to India and its offer of help. In the meantime, the Pakistanis have done a terrific job as usual of suggesting that they have a special relationship with the U.S. and that another deal is in the making. The Pakistani Ambassador, Ms. Maleeha Lodhi's interview with Wolf Blitzer on CNN was a masterful performance in this regard.

Second, the U.S. must find something cooperative it can do with India — and sooner rather than later. It does not have to be anything very dramatic and intense, but it should get a good public airing so that it registers in the Indian public's mind. Perhaps the Brajesh Mishra or Jaswant Singh visits to Washington will solve

this particular problem in the near future.

Third, Washington must, at least privately, tell New Delhi that it will go beyond the immediate terrorism problem focussed on Afghanistan. While the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and his advisers have certainly made that point publicly a number of times since September 11, it bears repeating. The U.S. may at this point be telling India that to the extent that it does something about Afghanistan it will have done something to help India's cause in Kashmir. This is debatable.

One could equally argue that shutting down the Afghanistan terrorism base will only cause it to migrate, possibly in part to India (i.e. Kashmir) but certainly to Pakistan from where it will be better disposed to turn its attention to Kashmir and other Indian locations. In Pakistan, it will be even more directly under Pakistani control. Islamabad's interest will be to increase the network's involvement in India. Islamabad will also be under pressure to turn these groups against India as payback for having failed to protect them in Afghanistan. If these groups intensify their operations in India or do something spectacular like September 11 against Indian targets, there will be fantastic pressure on New Delhi to retaliate massively. This could lead to a confrontation with Pakistan the likes of which we have not seen, with nuclear weapons not far away.

The U.S. should move on two fronts in respect of India's concerns. First of all, it should apply pressures on Pakistan to wind down fundamentalist influences. This means at the very least redefining the role of madrasa education in Pakistan. In addition, it means rooting out fundamentalist elements in the armed forces. Finally, and most importantly in the short to medium term, it implies shutting down the militant groups operating in Kashmir. The Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Jaish-e-Mohammed, and the Hizbul Mu-

jahideen are the three most important outfits. Washington should get Islamabad to act hard and fast against these groups and at least disarm them. To engineer the return of democracy in Pakistan is a laudable goal of U.S. policy; but it is not the central concern of Indians unless democratisation addresses the above issues.

The second front that the U.S. should move on, quietly but firmly, is to bring Kashmiri groups round to participating in Kashmir's electoral process. Some Kashmiri factions and sections are interested in contesting the polls. But the APHC has not come out publicly in support of the idea. Washington should use its influence with these groups. Pakistan will oppose Kashmiris voting and participating in the elections. Here is where the U.S. can again be helpful beyond just Afghanistan. Mr. Bush said that it would be a long hard campaign against terrorist violence and that it would require the use of punitive as well as positive incentives, that any strategy would have to combine economic, diplomatic, and political instruments in addition to the military. This would be a vital test case of subtle, strong, and extended engagement with the issue of terrorism.

In closing, it is worth noting the good things the US has so far done. It has emphasised a measured, step-by-step diplomatic approach before resorting to force. It is conducting a massive investigation of the attacks to pinpoint responsibility. It has suggested that it will in some manner, without jeopardising its intelligence sources, share its findings with the international community. It has insisted that its crusade against terrorism is not a crusade against Islam. It is putting together a diverse coalition. It seems likely that it will seek U.N. endorsement of action against the perpetrators of the attack of September 11. And it has urged Americans not to attack Muslims and other minorities in the U.S. These are wise decisions and make India's cooperation with the U.S. more plausible.

(The writer teaches at the School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi.)

THE HINDU
22 SEP 2001

'Pak. factor will not hit Indo-U.S. ties'

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 21. The U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Robert Blackwill, told the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, this afternoon that the "operational requirements" of the U.S. would not affect the on-going transformation in the Indo-U.S. relations. India, on its part, was effusive in its praise for the U.S. approach to combat terrorism as spelt out by the President, Mr. George W. Bush, today.

Mr. Singh, at a press conference held after the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), described Mr. Bush's address to the U.S. Congress as "categorical and statesman-like" and which India "welcomed entirely". Mr. Bush's speech demonstrated the U.S. resolve to root out terrorism. Indicating that it was business as usual between the two countries, Mr. Singh announced that he would be visiting Washington on October 2 for detailed consultations with his counterpart, Gen. Colin Powell and the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld.

Talking to reporters earlier, Mr. Blackwill said that Washington was keen on receiving the Mr. Singh to determine "where we go from here." Mr. Singh clarified that the Indo-Pak. dialogue process had been halted as the leadership on both sides were preoccupied with dealing with the fallout of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. He welcomed Pakistan's decision to join the global fight against terrorism. In response to a question, Mr. Singh said lifting of the U.S. sanctions on Pakistan would be a "good thing" as it would ease Pakistan's economic burden.

India, Russia and the U.S. are looking at reviving the Taliban opposition and factoring it in their global strategy to combat terrorism, highly-placed sources in the Government said.

The three countries are discussing the pros and cons of reviving the Northern Alliance which has battled the Taliban regime since the early Nineties. The multi-ethnic Alliance, which is headed by Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, recently lost its top military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood.

The revival of the Alliance, according to sources, was discussed during the recently-concluded visit of the National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, to Moscow. The future of Afghanistan was also a prominent topic of discussion between the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, when he called the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh over telephone. Mr. Jaswant Singh, during his conversation with the Iranian counterpart, Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, earlier this week also discussed options which could result in stability in Afghanistan.

During the press conference, Mr. Singh said that a link between the attack on Masood and the terrorist strikes in the U.S. could not be ruled out. The CCS also kept track of the anti-Government demonstrations in Pakistan.

Decision on 'fatwa' today

BHOPAL, SEPT. 21. Muslim clerics in the country will converge here tomorrow to decide on the 'fatwa' issued by the 'Shoora' clerics in Afghanistan on the U.S. demand to hand over Osama bin Laden.

The Ulema council member, Maulvi Abdul Sattar, said they would take stock of the situation and convey the decision of Indian Muslims on the 'fatwa'.

The clerics, arriving here to participate in a meeting organised by the Madhya Pradesh Madarassa Board, will converge at the Taj-ul-Masjid to discuss the situation. — PTI

THE HINDU

22 SEP 2001

Dissent in NDA over help to USA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

9/22/99
NEW DELHI, Sept. 18. - Barely three days after an all-party meeting gave the government the go-ahead on an anti-terrorism alliance with the USA, murmurs of dissent and concern are beginning to be heard. That too within the ruling NDA. At a Cabinet meeting today, ministers said the offer to help should not be unconditional, a significant shift in thinking from the immediate reactions after the American tragedy.

Senior BJP leaders are dissatisfied at what they see as Mr Jaswant Singh's "jumping the gun" on offering help, before it became clear what the USA was offering India. At a press conference, the Samata Party spokesman virtually distanced the party from the official line, criticising the USA and even questioning its primacy in an anti-terrorist alliance.

After disposing of more mundane items, the Cabinet discussed the situation faced by India after the terrorist strikes. The for-

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

NEW DELHI, Sept. 18. - For the first time, the Cabinet allowed itself to be shown "mourning" in solidarity for last Tuesday's victims. Lensmen were allowed to photograph the Cabinet observing a two-minute silence for the victims.

The Cabinet was discussing the hike in DA for central government employees, when it broke off for a two-minute silence at 10.30 this morning, Mr Pramod Mahajan said. - SNS

■ Photograph on page 6

eign and defence minister briefed his colleagues on discussions the Centre has held with the US government on the global initiative against terrorism, and steps the Centre has taken in this direction. The Cabinet was also briefed on the outcome of last Saturday's all-party meeting.

The Cabinet concurred on the view that

5/11 19/9
India, which has faced terrorism for over a decade, should be "pragmatic" in weighing its choices and not give in to pressure to concede its sovereignty in any combined operations. It was also felt strongly that Indian soil should not be used to launch attacks on neighbouring countries.

Members spoke of the need to strengthen security at vital institutions, including airports and nuclear and other power plants.

BJP leaders say "pro-US postures ring hollow considering that "even after the 11 September strikes, the USA wasn't ready to talk about terrorism in Kashmir". Party sources said the Centre should realise that USA will not do anything at the cost of Pakistan and that terrorism in Kashmir may not even figure in the fight against global terrorism.

Mr Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Mr Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and some others said nothing more than a token representation should be offered by India in the proposed US-led coalition.

19 SEP 2001

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2001

AN EVOLVING ANTI-TERROR AGENDA

WITH THE U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, making a significant telephonic call to the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the stage is set for a qualitative dialogue between New Delhi and Washington on ways to launch a genuine international drive against terrorism. The Bush administration's strategic priority of having to engage Pakistan about America's planned new war on terrorism should not weigh heavily on India's mind as it seeks a new partnership with Washington. New Delhi's direct stake in the planned international agenda of extinguishing terrorism is in a large measure related to India's Kashmir-centric worries and Pakistan's ability to stoke them in a sustained manner. Yet, it is a plain strategic norm of today's international ethos that the U.S. cannot think of playing a zero-sum game as regards India and Pakistan while seeking the cooperation of both in the fight against globalised terrorism. Now, the Bush administration has certainly characterised Pakistan as a "friend" at this stage, but Washington has also let it be known that Islamabad's immediate value is that of a friend and patron of the Taliban which harbours Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the latest terrorist atrocity against America. New Delhi, on the other hand, is being viewed by the U.S. for a qualitatively different reason — India's status as an emerging power. An ongoing trend of a definitive improvement in bilateral ties should catalyse the evolving plans for cooperation between India and the U.S. within a possible multilateral coalition against terrorism. So, the Vajpayee administration will be erring if it were to see these realities entirely through its prism of Pakistan-related concerns.

A secure global environment, free from the devastating vagaries of trans-national terrorism, is certainly in India's long-term interest. For the U.S., too, it will be a travesty of the intended "crusade" against all manifest forms of borderless terror if the Bush administration were to completely ignore New Delhi's bleeding wounds

of Pakistan-encouraged cross-frontier terrorism. Yet, the moral complexion of the planned collective campaign against a worldwide scourge is quite inimical to the notions of trade-off among the parties able and willing to join this new fight. It is in this sense that the envisioned international campaign cannot easily be bent to suit the contentious political objectives of either Pakistan or India as they seek to team up with the U.S. and others. However, the terroristic pursuit of a separatist objective in Kashmir, by or on behalf of Pakistan, can easily be distinguished from the political goal itself. It is in this context that India will have a point in wanting to enlarge the focus of a multilateral alliance that the U.S. is eager to fashion. New Delhi is obviously keen to ensure that any virtual war cabinet of the world looks beyond the suspected sources of America's troubles.

HO-10 1899
The contours of a possible coalition are still far from clear. It is debatable whether the United Nations, which does not seem to command the resources to combat terrorism, can indeed bring a task force into being. The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, has made a significant observation while clarifying that the composition of a coalition is unclear at this juncture. The U.S., in his reckoning, will take into account the sensitivities of Pakistan which is reported to have insisted that neither Israel nor India should be co-opted if America were to expect Islamabad's assistance. He may have confirmed Pakistan's condition in this regard, but it is important that he is confident of an appropriate and necessary decision in due course. So, while New Delhi may still have time to firm up the operational aspects of its participation in a U.S.-inspired alliance against terror, India should do so consistent with its own strategic and political independence, mindful of the fact that it has been a direct victim of terror in Kashmir and also in New York where a large number of Indians are presumed lost.

18 SEP 2001

18 SEP 2001

India offers military bases to cneckmate Pak

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Sept. 17: Even as President George W. Bush declared America wanted Osama bin Laden "dead or alive", it became clear today that India was moving to the centre-stage of the developing war on global terrorism.

Within hours of national security adviser Brajesh Mishra's talks with Russian leaders, US assistant secretary of state dealing with India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Christina Rocca, will arrive in Moscow to pick up the threads of Indo-Russian

plans on dealing with the Taliban.

Rocca will be part of a delegation led by deputy-secretary of state Richard Armitage. The team, scheduled to reach Moscow on Wednesday, will include US state department's coordinator for counter-terrorism, Francis Taylor.

Mishra may fly directly from Moscow to Washington ahead of external affairs minister Jaswant Singh's visit here, sources said.

The intense diplomatic activity involving India came amidst leaks in Washington that Delhi

has conveyed to America its agreement to the use of Indian soil to base US troops and equipment for an assault on Afghanistan.

The word here is that India has volunteered the use of its military bases to the Americans in a clever diplomatic ploy to deflate the strength of Pakistan's offer of cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Sources here confirmed that in his conversation with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Bush provided an outline of what he intended to do to bring the terrorists responsible

for America's new war to justice.

It is understood that Bush took three governments into confidence on his plans — India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. US troops are already based in Saudi Arabia while Pakistan has complied with all US "requests" since the crisis.

Uzbekistan, too, volunteered today to fully cooperate with the US in case of any assault on Afghanistan. Uzbekistan, which has a 130-km border with Afghanistan, was one of the countries to attend a crucial meeting on the crisis in

Dushanbe last week. India was represented at the meeting by minister of state for external affairs Omar Abdullah.

Uzbekistan foreign minister Abdulaziz Kamilov said he was willing to discuss "all possible forms of cooperation" with the US, including the use of Uzbek soil for American troops or its air space for US aircraft.

Like India, Uzbekistan is a victim of terrorism exported from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Understandably, Kamilov insisted that the "issue" on the table was "eliminating terrorism in

our region and strengthening stability".

However, like India, Russia and Iran, Uzbekistan was not interested in any adventurism in the region to satisfy populist demands for revenge against bin Laden.

With the offers from India and Uzbekistan to place their facilities at America's disposal, the US has gained more room for manoeuvre in its plans to bring bin Laden to justice.

This would mean Pakistan can no longer blackmail America with its demands. It is said here that Pakistan had demand-

ed a coalition of the anti-Iraq type for an assault on the Taliban. Islamabad also wanted India and Israel to be kept out of any such coalition.

Military analysts here said India's offer was a good move in the diplomatic chess game in south Asia.

The offer was highly unlikely to be used by America: India has no common international border with Afghanistan and any US troop based on Indian soil would still have to be flown through Pakistan's air space into Afghan territory, the analysts said.

THE TELEGRAPH

19 SEP 2001

'Reports on Pak. conditions false'

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 17. Pakistan had not conveyed to Washington that it wanted India and Israel out of an international coalition against terrorism. This was conveyed to the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, by the U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Robert Blackwill, while responding to India's concerns.

HP-1
During the meeting, Mr. Advani expressed the Government's concern over the attacks on Sikhs. Mr. Blackwill said the attacks were a "matter of concern" and that such violent outbreaks would not be allowed to create "any misgivings".

Mr. Blackwill also met the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, who is expected to travel to Washington later this month for meetings with the Sec-

retary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, and the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld.

He also called on the Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, in what appears to be an effort at unifying Indian support for the anti-terrorist campaign. Ms. Gandhi is learnt to have discussed the attacks on Sikhs and urged the U.S. envoy to ensure that the administration reacted swiftly to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

18/9
Earlier, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson took exception to reports suggesting Pakistan's attempt to keep New Delhi and Tel Aviv out of a U.S.-led coalition, saying that a response on these lines would not be commensurate with the colossal loss of life and property witnessed in the U.S.

Indicating India's reservations

over U.S. unilateralism, the spokesperson reiterated the need for collective action by a "coalition of democracies". The fight against terrorism, she added, need not necessarily be preceded by the use of military force. The response to this menace needed to be multi-faceted and the use of diplomacy and economic measures could be combined.

India first aired these views on Sunday after Mr. Jaswant Singh spoke to his Russian counterpart, Mr. Igor Ivanov. Significantly, the former Prime Ministers, Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda, along with leaders of the Left parties, had on Sunday expressed the view that India's participation in any international action against terrorism, involving the use of force, must be sanctioned by the United Nations.

Concerned about the welfare of

non-resident Indians, the Government today expressed solidarity with them. The Chairman of the high-level Committee on Indian Diaspora, Mr. L.M. Singhvi, in a condolence message said that some of the brightest NRI professionals had lost their lives in the tragedy, which struck New York and Washington. Expressing concern over the attacks on Sikhs, the MEA spokesperson said India's Consul-General in San Francisco was in touch with the community in Arizona.

PTI reports: *gnd us*

Mr. Jaswant Singh tonight dismissed as "sheer absurdity" the conditions reportedly made by Pakistan. "There cannot be any bargain on terrorism. Any such bargaining will tantamount to accepting terrorism and granting it legitimacy," he told Star TV.

'No deal with Pak.': Page 11

THE HINDU

SEP 18 1990

India concerned at attacks on Sikhs

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 16. India has sought help of the U.S. authorities to prevent attack on Sikhs following the tragic and unfortunate killing of a Sikh in Arizona yesterday in the aftermath of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11.

Reports from Chandigarh said that the Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, spoke to the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, requesting him to ask the U.S. authorities to ensure protection to Sikhs who were being attacked as a result of mistaken identity. The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the Indian Embassy in Washington and Consulates elsewhere in the U.S. were "in touch with the authorities there." She said that India had conveyed its concern for the safety of the Sikhs even as she expressed the Government's "deepest sympathy" to the family of the victim.

Reports from the U.S. have said that Balbir Singh Sodhi was gunned down at a petrol station in Arizona yesterday. There have been other reports of violence against Sikhs who were mistaken to be Arabs presumably because of their beards and turbans.

The MEA spokesperson said that already the U.S. authorities have stepped up police patrolling in areas where Indians are present in some numbers, and there have been appeals issued by the U.S. authorities on television channels asking people not to resort to violence against minority ethnic groups.

UNI reports

The Jathedar of the Akal Takht — the highest spiritual and temporal seat of Sikhs — Giani Joginder Singh, and the head priest of the Golden Temple, Prof. Manjit Singh, have condemned the terrorist attacks in the U.S. and expressed concern over the Sikhs being mistaken as Arabs and assaulted.

White House apprised

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 16. India's Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Lalit Mansingh, has said that the embassy and consulates around the country were in touch with local authorities on the attacks on Indians in the aftermath of the terrorist strikes in New York and Washington.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Mansingh said he had contacted

the White House on the attacks against Indians, especially Sikhs. He was assured that his message would be conveyed to the President, the National Security Adviser and the Attorney-General.

On the killing of a Sikh in Mesa, Arizona, Mr. Mansingh said the Consulate-General was in touch with the local police and the family. Although the police are saying that a motive had not been established, the victim's family believes that Balbir Singh Sodhi was killed because he resembled those originating from West Asia.

He said Indian missions here were dealing with the situation in many ways. On the one hand, the consulates were in touch with local law enforcement officials and on the other, Sikh leaders were being encouraged to be more visible with their message and even get in touch with their elected Members of Congress.

Commenting on the killing, the Maricopa County Attorney, Mr. Rick Romley, was quoted as saying in *The Arizona Republic*: "This is not going to be tolerated. I am going to use all of our resources to deal with this. We've had a terrible national tragedy, but there is no excuse for something like this."

17 SEP 2001

17 SEP 2001

Bush calls PM; Brajesh to visit US

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, September 16 1719

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush believes that India and the US can help each other fight terrorism jointly. Speaking to Prime Minister A B Vajpayee on Sunday night, the President said, "Terrorism is a universal problem and you can help us with your long experience of fighting terrorism. And we can help you. Vajpayee assured the US of India's assistance in the fight against terrorism and said he was sending his National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra to Washington.

"That's great," said the President, "I will tell Condee (Condoleezza Rice, his National Security Advisor) and they can sit together."

Mishra, who is currently in Moscow, has been asked to fly to the United States to consult with the Bush administration.

The Vajpayee-Bush conversation lasted 10 minutes and was in response to a call made by the Prime Minister on Friday. The White House has said that the President would call back over the weekend.

Vajpayee also raised the issue of the Sikh who had been shot dead in Mesa, Arizona. The President said how sorry he was to hear of the death and conveyed the sympathies of the US people.

"We have many Americans of Indian origin," the President said. "We fight terrorists, not our fellow Americans." Bush was also full of praise for Indo-US relations which, he said, was strong and vibrant. He paid tribute to the intelligence of all Indians, especially those he had come across in the US and spoke of "unleashing the brain power of the Indian people".

Vajpayee expressed his disappointment at not being able to meet the President in New York at their previously scheduled meeting and invited him to India. The President said that he look forward to visiting India soon.

The Indian Government had earlier decided that Vajpayee would not raise operational issue or mention Pakistan, restricting the conversation to an expression of sympathy. Nevertheless these issues have been raised at lower level and the decision to send Brajesh Mishra to Washington is directly related to India's desire to cooperate with the campaign against terrorism.

Such a campaign, the President told Vajpayee, "would be comprehensive because America was in it for the long haul". It is here that India hopes to gain the most in the battle against Pakistan-backed jihadis.

Sikh killed in US

A SIKH and a Pakistani were gunned down in Arizona and Texas in continuing attacks on ethnic immigrants amid reports of an upsurge in "hate crime" in parts of America following last Tuesday's terrorist outrage.

Balbir Singh Sodhi, owner of a gas station at Mesa, died on the spot after three shots were fired at him at point blank range. The killing has led to a wave of panic among Sikhs.

In another attack, Pakistani immigrant Waqar Hasan, 46, was shot dead in his grocery store in Dallas, Texas.

Detailed report on Page 7

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 SEP 2001

9-25-01
51-10
16/9

Intelligence agencies form 'core groups' to help FBI

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 15. - The CBI, the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing have promised to provide information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Interpol about terrorist activities and their hide-outs in India and neighbouring countries.

Highly placed Intelligence sources said that following the FBI and Interpol's requests seeking assistance of IB, RAW and CBI, the three agencies set up "core groups" of officials today to collect, assess and review information relating to terrorist groups.

The CBI director, Mr PC Sharma, who convened a meeting of senior officials last evening to examine the present situation, has also called a DIG level coordination meeting tomorrow from various states to exchange information and to ensure better coordination between officials within and outside the agency.

"The core groups would be

centrally monitored by the directors of the respective agencies," sources said, adding "however, they would inform the PMO and the Home affairs ministry of day-to-day developments." The core groups have also been directed to analyse the movement of terrorist groups and maps of their hide-outs, sources added. The government has directed that the task of the core groups be assigned to officials having vast experience of investigation of terrorist activities.

Sources said: "Though the government-level action to extradite the main accused of Mumbai blasts, Dawood Ibrahim and his henchmen is on, the FBI has also assured the CBI and the Centre of all possible help to locate and arrest them at the earliest." The government had already sent an extradition request to the UAE authorities.

The CBI spokesman, Mr SK Khan, said: "The CBI has already constituted its core group which will be monitored centrally in New Delhi.

It would soon contact the state governments to enlist their support in this regard."

A senior IB official said the government has forwarded a request from the FBI for information on Osama Bin Laden. The MHA has also requested the agencies to collect information regarding whereabouts, numbers, the arms and ammunition capability of other terrorist outfits operating in India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and the North-eastern states.

The FBI's Delhi office was set up in April last year during Mr Bill Clinton's visit for effective coordination between India and the US federal investigating agencies. The FBI has also appealed to people at large to supply information on bin Laden.

Intelligence sources said Bin Laden's organisation - Al-Qaeda - has been funding various terrorist outfits active in J&K. A large number of terrorist outfits including Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Hizb-al-Islami, Harkat-ul-Jehad and Sipah-e-

Sahaba operating in Kashmir owe allegiance to Al-Qaeda.

Carrying a \$5 million FBI reward on his head, bin Laden's direct involvement in terrorist acts in India surfaced earlier this year when the Delhi Police arrested five members of his gang, including a Sudanese and a Yemeni national on charges of plotting to bomb the US embassies in New Delhi and Dhaka. Police are still probing the case including the role of a Sudanese diplomat - who has left the country - who reportedly masterminded the plot to bomb the embassies during his tenure in his country's embassy in New Delhi.

He also carries a \$10 million reward announced by a German Internet millionaire for supplying concrete evidence against him. The reward was announced by the FBI after the bombing of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam on 7 August 1998.

The bombing had killed about 230 people and left thousands injured.

THE STATESMAN

16 SEP 2001

Indian embassy concerned about attacks on Indians

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 14. ^{HO-11} Indian missions in this country — the Consulate in New York and the Embassy in Washington — are doing their best to help the community in the aftermath of the tragedy that struck New York and Washington on Tuesday.

The Indian Ambassador, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, in a meeting with mediapersons, listed the services that had been provided, including the hotlines used by relatives and well-wishers. ^{QWV W3}

Mr. Mansingh said the Embassy and the Consulate had taken seriously reports of attack and harassment of Indians. Their complaints to the authorities had found swift response as well — as for instance, in calls to the New York Mayor, Mr. Rudolph Giuliani.

¹⁵⁷⁹ There have been cases of harassment of people of Indian origin, especially Sikhs, and officials have requested police protection at the gurudwara in New York. The authorities had apprehended one person here, the Ambassador pointed out. What has been pointed out is that of an estimated 40,000 persons supposed to be working at the time of the tragedy, 14,000 had been evacuated and the number of people trapped was between 5,000 and 10,000, including a certain percentage of Indians. /

SEP 15 1983

SEP 15 1983

Parties differ on support to USA

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 15. - The all-party meeting today saw differences of opinion surface on the issue of extending support to the USA through every-one unambiguously supported the resolve to fight terrorism and mobilise world opinion against it. Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, who chaired the meeting assured leaders of all parties that "I will not take any step that will harm the interests of our country."

The Prime Minister did not give details about the kind of support the government had pledged to the USA saying it was not possible to reveal everything. However, he urged all the political leaders to contact him for any clarifications before reacting to any reports, as the situation was sensitive. A PMO spokesman said he asked them to establish "live contact" with him.

The Congress, represented by Mr Manmohan Singh and Mr Shivraj Patil, while deciding to go along with the government said it should be very cautious while taking any step.

The CPI-M general secretary, Mr Harkishen Singh Surjeet, questioned the rationale of the government to take decisions such as providing air-space to the USA when a specific request for this had not even come. He along with others argued that India should give only diplomatic support to the USA and not go the extent of giving logistical support.

The Left parties reportedly

stressed that Indian soil or airspace should not be used for strikes against any country. Mr Surjeet said the USA had once patronised the Taliban against the erstwhile Soviet Union. The BJP reacted sharply to the Left alleging that the latter was trying to shift the focus from terrorism. There was a consensus that

Almost all major parties were represented except the AIADMK and the Bahujan Samaj Party. The government said the Indian sub-continent would be the worst affected as the focus of any action against terrorism would be Afghanistan. Also, the battle against terrorism would be long-drawn.



Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr LK Advani at an all-party meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. - AP/PTI

India should try to prevent the attack against terrorism from looking like an attack against Islamic countries and therefore try to involve Arab countries too in the fight. It should not look like the fight of NATO members alone. Mr Jaswant Singh said he was in touch with all important countries.

Mr LK Advani, Mr Jaswant Singh, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Pramod Mahajan, and the new minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office, Mr Vijay Goel, represented the government.

no support. The economy was bound to be affected leading to a price rise, most leaders agreed. But they urged that steps be taken to ensure that people below the poverty line were left untouched. Mr Pramod Mahajan later said there was no proposal to impose any additional tax due to the likely scenario.

Briefing reporters after the two-hour meeting, Mr Mahajan said the USA had not given any indication about the kind of assistance it would require from India but the Centre was in touch with the US administration and the governments of France, Russia, the United Kingdom and other important nations.

The National security adviser, Mr Brajesh Mishra, was also in constant touch with his US counterpart, Ms Condoleezza Rice. If needed, Mr Jaswant Singh might travel to some of these countries to establish direct contact on the issue, he said.

The meeting commenced with a two-minute silence in remembrance of the victims of the 11 September attacks. Mr Singh said India had been facing terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for many years, but most countries had remained silent. However, the world now appeared united against terrorism and India should take advantage of this.

Solidarity Day: The nation is to observe Solidarity Day on 18 September to express its oneness with victims of the 11 September tragedy in the USA and the resolve to fight

PANEL REVIEWS ANTI-TERRORISM OPTIONS

NEW DELHI, Sept. 15. - Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee met the Cabinet Committee on Security this evening to weigh the options of various political parties on possible steps India would take in the global initiative against terrorism.

The committee took stock of the situation, discussing in detail what offers can be made to the USA, if necessary. This includes use of airspace and Intelligence bases. Earlier, he chaired an all-party meeting on the recent developments in USA.

Prior to the CCS meeting, Mr Vajpayee met Mr LK Advani, separately for almost an hour. The CCS comprises Mr Vajpayee, Mr Advani, Mr Jaswant Singh, Mr Yashwant Sinha, and the national security advisor, Mr Brajesh Mishra. The CCS has been meeting almost daily since the devastating terrorist strikes on the USA last Tuesday, to explore all the options and finalise those best suited to carry forward India's interests, especially related to the "proxy war" in Jammu and Kashmir. Cross-border terrorism has exacted a deadly toll in India, with Mr Vajpayee, in course of his address to the nation, placing the figure at 53,000 dead in the last two decades.

Any retaliatory strike or action by the USA against the Taliban, if and when it comes, is likely to have a spillover into this country, with the Mujahideen fleeing for temporary cover and finding refuge in PoK and spilling into the valley to continue sporadic acts of jihad.

With possible hijackings a major source of concern, the home ministry has mooted the idea of a Central command responsible for safety at all civilian airports, senior government officials said. At present there are multiple chains of command for various airports, with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and the Airports Authority of India being the main players.

The CCS has actively considered the proposal to place all airports under a single agency's command, and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been picked as best suited to take on the role. They (the CISF) have already taken charge at airports in Andhra Pradesh (where the PWG threat is ever-present), Bihar (the MCC) and parts of the North-east, where ongoing insurgency is an ever-present security threat.

Army officials said strikes on camps of Osama bin Laden are likely to be unsuccessful as many of them would have been evacuated fearing strikes. - SNS

terrorism, as per the consensus at the all-party meeting today. The proposal was mooted by the Union home minister, Mr LK Advani. A two-minute silence would be observed throughout the country, a source said.

'USA should acknowledge Pak aid to terrorism'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 15. - India and the USA will have greater interaction in areas of intelligence in combating terrorism. Mr L K Advani today said the US strategy to crush terrorism should take into account Pakistan's active encouragement to the international evil.

During the last decade or more, the Taliban and Pakistan have worked in tandem to promote terrorism and openly given refuge and asylum to those who have been indulging in terrorism, Mr Advani said. The home minister was talking to media persons on the sidelines of the annual training conference of the BSF.

Mr Advani said the US ambassador to New Delhi, Mr Robert Blackwill, who met him last evening, "was extremely grateful to India's offer of cooperation and he was particularly wanting that we widen our interaction in the field of Intelligence".

The home minister said he was not sure what shape the ongoing crisis would finally take but the country would have to face the challenge of the new scenario as it emerged. The South Asian region was going to be the most affected region in the coming days, he said.

Termining terrorism as a "global challenge", he took a dig at Gen. Musharraf saying who want terrorism m.

Narayanan calls for closer Indo-U.S. ties to fight terror

Times News Network and Agencies

NEW DELHI: President K.R. Narayanan on Friday called for close cooperation between the U.S. and India against the increasing terrorist threats to both countries. Speaking on the occasion of new U.S. ambassador Robert D. Blackwill's presentation of credentials, the President stressed that there was an urgent need for both nations to work together for their safety and economic progress.

He said there was a new responsibility for both of them to "cooperate across a very broad agenda of bilateral and international endeavours and advance regional and global peace, stability and security."

The President's remarks assume significance in the light of the government's decision to offer full cooperation to the U.S. in its efforts to retaliate against the countries suspected of harbouring terrorists.

The President conveyed his grief and sense of outrage at the immense tragedy caused by the terrorist strikes at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. "This reprehensible act is a crime not just against the United States but against all humanity," he said.

Mr Narayanan said, "It is with a sense of grief and outrage that I convey my condolence and sympathy for the immense tragedy that has

resulted from the barbaric terrorist attack on the U.S."

Barring the September 1 engagement at Rashtrapati Bhavan for the swearing in of eight new ministers, this was the first official engagement of Mr Narayanan, who has been indisposed for almost a month.

New Chinese ambassador Hua Junduo, high commissioner of New Zealand Ms Caroline McDonald and high commissioner of Zambia Moses Musonda also presented their credentials to the President.

Mr Narayanan said, "We appreciate President Bush's desire to deepen Indo-U.S. ties and strongly reciprocate that sentiment."

Observing that Indo-U.S. relations have been infused with new warmth and confidence while bilateral cooperation has deepened and diversified into new areas, he said, "We must now build on this momentum to give concrete shape to our shared vision of a closer, more broad-based and more meaningful relationship between our countries."

The U.S. ambassador briefed him on the steps taken to meet the situation in the wake of the terrorist attacks. He also shared the view on the need to further consolidate bilateral ties.

Mr Narayanan said, "We are at a point of momentous change in the history of mankind. New technologies, new ideas and the ascen-

dance of values cherished by both India and the U.S. have opened up new possibilities to bring together our peoples and those with whom we share this world for the all round peace, progress and prosperity."

But the pursuit of progress faced resistance from the unlearnt lessons of history and from many challenges, old and new, he said.

Mr Narayanan said he shared President Bush's conviction that if we wanted a world shaped in the ideals that we both shared, "India and the U.S. must be closer friends and stronger partners."

"Anything less would only encourage those who still remain tied to the vestiges of the past, to the idea of domination and division", he said.

The President noted that there was a natural foundation to Indo-U.S. ties with both countries committed to liberty, welfare and choice of the two democracies.

Mr Narayanan also spoke of common values, concerns and intersecting interests that the two countries, emerging from the shadows of recent history, had now begun to increasingly recognise.

He stressed that India and the U.S. must work together to make the two nations safer, economies stronger, citizens more secure, families more prosperous and children better educated and healthier.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

15 SEP 2001

Delhi's terms: no distinction between Afghan and PoK terrorist camps

India offers USA use of its military bases

SF-1
15/9

①
Indo-US

SANJAY SINGH and
SRINJOY CHOWDHURY
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 14. — India today offered the USA use of its defence bases and refuelling facilities for its aircraft while attacking Afghanistan to crush the prime suspect in Tuesday's attacks on America, Osama bin Laden, and his terrorist camps.

Sources said the Indian offer came when the US ambassador to India, Mr Robert Blackwill, met the home minister, Mr L K Advani, this evening to discuss the situation arising out of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington where thousands of people, including several Indians, died. India's support to the USA, however, has one condition.

It wants the USA not to distinguish between the terrorist training camps run in Afghanistan and those in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) with active assistance from these two countries. They are a constant threat to democracy and civil society, India feels. Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee said in his address to the nation that the world must join hands to overwhelm them militarily, to neutralise the poison.

It is, however, not yet clear what the US response to the Indian stance has been.

The ministry of external affairs spokesperson said the level of cooperation between the two countries would depend on the nature of request from the USA. So far, New Delhi has not received any formal request from Washington about any support — military or logistical, she said.

"Our offer is unambiguous and unconditional," the spokesperson said. She added that the Prime Minister had in his letter to President George W Bush offered unconditional cooperation for fighting global terrorism. The external affairs and defence minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, was quoted in the media



WHEN EUROPE STOOD STILL: A tram stops in Lisbon on Friday and the driver and the passengers observe a three-minute Europewide silence in memory of the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in the USA. — AP/PTI

as having said that India would give "military operational support" to the USA.

A senior armed forces official added that this was "a defining moment" in India's strategic relationship with the USA.

Indian defence sources were not drawn into specifics but said that logistical help in terms of refuelling facilities, intelligence-sharing, use of Indian airspace and other forms of support were possible. The use of Indian ground-troops is a tricky one and top defence officials refused to be drawn into the issue as first, there is no formal request for any help so far and secondly, India has no border with Afghanistan.

■ Regarding US forces wanting refuelling facilities or bases in India to strike targets in Afghanistan, in the past, New Del-

■ More reports on pages 4, 5 and 8
■ Editorials: A big if; United in trial, page 6

hi had been "strictly non-aligned" but in recent times, ties between India and the US and India and Israel keeping the common enemy of global terrorism in mind, have been stronger.

■ Top defence officials have already said that India will share intelligence with the USA and Israel on terrorism and some

military issues. The arrangements already exist and while the USA has very sophisticated satellites, some of which have cameras with sub-one metre resolution and a plethora of resources, the Indian experience of being a frontline state, will help. In terms of intelligence, India could pick up signals-intelligence inputs and listen in — more Indians are likely to pick up Pushtu than Americans.

■ India could also allow the USA to use Indian airspace to launch strikes on Afghanistan, though there is no certainty the USA would want to do that. In the past, the USA had launched cruise missiles against Afghanistan. Against Iraq,

American troops have used carrier-borne strike aircraft. There could be other forms of logistical support as well as signals-intelligence help.

Meanwhile, all relevant Indian military formations, Army, Navy and Air Force, remain on alert.

The Israeli ambassador, Mr David Aphck, too met the home minister and discussed how the two countries could cooperate.

Mr Advani said India had set up joint working groups against terrorism with the USA, Canada, the UK, Germany and Israel and had been making efforts to forge ties with other democratic countries to face the challenge jointly.

THE STATESMAN

15 SEP 2001

Redefining Indo-U.S. ties

By Harold A. Gould

The U.S.-Indian relationship needs to be rooted in historical insight and political practicality. This will enable both countries to dispense with the past ideological baggage.

140-12
12/9

ASPATE of recent publications suggests that either by reflex or design a backlash is developing against the present trend toward improved relations between the United States and India. One cannot help but wonder if unreconstructed denizens of the fading Cold War culture may be behind it. Examples abound. An article by Lawrence Kaplan, a senior editor of the *New Republic*, appeared in the August 6 edition of that magazine which offered grudging praise to India for having at last seen the light and cast its strategic and economic lot with the United States. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* written by Kenneth Weisbrode on August 22 adopts a similar tone. As does an article by Robyn Lim in the August 16 edition of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

The theme running through all of these articles is that the U.S. may be putting its strategic eggs in a rickety basket; that when push comes to shove the Indians, who opposed our policies during the Cold War, might prove to be an unreliable strategic partner in the new global firmament now struggling to be born.

This line of reasoning proceeds on the assumption that all the blame for what Dennis Kux refers to as the past "estrangement" between the world's two largest democracies lies almost exclusively on the back of India. The fact is that India has no need to apologise to anyone for its past behaviour. There were many good and sufficient reasons for India's adversarial stance toward the U.S. throughout the Cold War era. If India has now decided to move into a more harmonious relationship with the U.S., something which India's American friends surely welcome, it is not motivated by guilt or contrition, nor should it be, but by the one thing that motivates all nation states, including the U.S., to behave as they do — viz., good old fashioned self-interest.

The Cold War recidivists ignore the fact that the manner in which the U.S. comported itself in South Asia during the dark days of the Cold War had plenty to do with the way India in turn comported itself during that same period. Cultural and historical ignorance, combined with anti-Communist obsessions, drove Amer-

ica's leaders to completely misread the political situation in South Asia. The result was a foreign policy that ignited an arms race in the Subcontinent, fuelled two wars and perpetual skirmishing between India and Pakistan, resulted in distortions of both the Indian and Pakistani economies, drove a disgusted and disillusioned Jawaharlal Nehru to seek political succour from the Soviet Union, and in the end left the world facing a senseless nuclear arms race in the Subcontinent.

In his *New Republic* article, Mr. Kaplan bases much of his argument on Stephen P. Cohen's assertion in a recently published book that India "went wrong by placing its chips on the Soviet Union, economic autarky, and military might". These tired clichés, including the subjective judgement that India "went wrong" in the first place, sustain the self-serving certitude that has plagued all efforts by mainstream policy analysts in the U.S. to understand and deal effectively with South Asia.

Let us briefly examine the basis for these three theses. (1) Why the 'tilt' toward the Soviet Union? While we are told that U.S. officials were compelled throughout the Nehru era to, as Mr. Kaplan puts it, "nap their way" through anti-imperialist diatribes that got in the way of substantive diplomatic accomplishments, the fact is that there were cogent reasons both for Indian anger and their tilt toward the Soviet bloc. It happened because U.S. South Asian policy gave India no alternative — not, it might be pointed out, from an ideological standpoint (fellow-travellership, and all that), but from a purely strategic and geopolitical standpoint. When the U.S. decided, for its own purely strategic and geopolitical considerations, to recruit Pakistan into its Grand Alliance against the spread of Communism, it meant putting large quantities of modern weaponry in the hands of India's sworn enemy that

even in the 1950s was promising jihad to liberate Kashmir.

War in the Subcontinent came for the first time in 1965, a year after Nehru's death, when Pakistan's first (but by no means last) military dictator, General Ayub Khan, marshalled his American-supplied military hardware and launched an unprovoked invasion of India. The U.S. had pooh-poohed Nehru's claim that Pakistan joined the Western alliance solely to obtain the military wherewithal to attack India. Why should Nehru not have been angry and fed up when in fact that turned out to be the case?

Nehru resorted to the realpolitik that he was allegedly too woolly-headed to grasp. He turned to the Soviet Union not because he was "pro-Communist", but because the Soviets were the only credible source of help in parrying both the consequences of the Western alliance's unwelcome intrusion into South Asia and of Chinese aggression across the Himalayas. The irony is that undermining India's non-alignment policy reduced America's own South Asian policy to a shambles. Its *raison d'être*, let it be remembered, had been the prevention of war in South Asia and deterring Soviet geopolitical inroads into the region!

(2) Why 'economic autarky'? Centuries of British colonialism had left India with no realistic alternative to a forced-draft, centrally driven economic development programme if the country was to avoid becoming an economic and political lackey of the great powers. Nehru rightly believed that genuine independence required national planning and aggressive mobilisation of capital resources. Despite flaws in the development scenario — viz., over-bureaucratisation and insufficient latitude for free-market entrepreneurship — this strategy provided India with a strong industrial base and afforded India enough political autonomy to pursue with impun-

ity the very diplomacy which stuck in America's craw.

(3) Why 'military might'? Because, as already stated, India was compelled to seek it in order to preserve her national integrity and ward off grave threats to her survival. America itself, in fact, directly contributed to India's threat-syndrome in 1971 when it blatantly "tilted" toward Pakistan during the Bangladesh War.

Power-worshippers like Henry Kissinger scoffingly dismissed India as a "soft state" that did not deserve to be taken seriously in his Metternichian halls of international diplomacy. Because India did not factor into Kissinger's primitive balance-of-power calculus, he had no qualms about rattling sabers at her in order to impress Mao Zedong with America's determination to be "steadfast toward a friend". His direction to William Saxbe (in 1975) as he was leaving to assume his post as Ambassador to India, exemplified the sophomoric depths to which U.S. diplomacy had sunk. "Once you reach there," he declared, "I don't want to hear from you again!" Mrs. Gandhi also got the message and resolved to do whatever it took to "harden" the Indian state.

What then does this tell us about how the Bush administration and the American people should approach the new turn in U.S.-Indian relations? Should India be treated as a repentant sinner who has now realised the error of its ways, which the Cold War recidivists imply? America needs to abandon the neocolonialist nonsense once and for all. With the Cold War behind us, the U.S.-Indian relationship needs to be rooted in historical insight and political practicality. This will enable both countries to dispense with the past ideological baggage that led to "estrangement." A mature relationship with the U.S. will enable India to become an "emergent power" in a manner that is good for America, good for India and for world peace. India's economic prosperity, political health and strategic cooperation will indeed serve as a powerful antidote to the spectre of Chinese power driven by totalitarian politics and arrogant cultural chauvinism. Let this opportunity not be undermined by cynicism and Cold War recidivism.

14 SEP 2001

PM to address nation, offers U.S. full assistance

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: In an unusual move clearly signalling the government's desire to emphasise that India is as much a victim of 'international terrorism' as the U.S., Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee



A.B. Vajpayee will address the nation on Friday in connection with this week's audacious terrorist strikes in New York and Washington. This was announced by external affairs minister Jaswant Singh after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security on Thursday afternoon, the second one since Tuesday's carnage.

Although there is some disquiet in official circles at the fact that U.S. President George W. Bush spoke to a number of world leaders in the aftermath of the terrorist outrages but has not so far called Mr Vajpayee, the government will continue to emphasise the notion of shared victimhood.

The PM is likely to declare his government's intention to offer the U.S. every kind of assistance in the war against terrorism, including the use of Indian facilities.

Sources in the PMO said that the speech will be an elaboration of the letter Mr Vajpayee wrote to Mr Bush on September 11 in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist strikes. It will make an offer of cooperation and assistance to the U.S. in investigating the crime.

'President Bush has big ideas about India, he wants to transform the relationship'

Interview of the Week

SONIA TRIKHA meets
ROBERT BLACKWILL

THE US ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, says his aim in India is to transform Indo-US relations and to bring the two sides closer than ever before. He has been in India less than two months but he has already travelled through three states in India, given two speeches on US foreign policy and its relations with India, and made several new contacts in the Indian establishment.

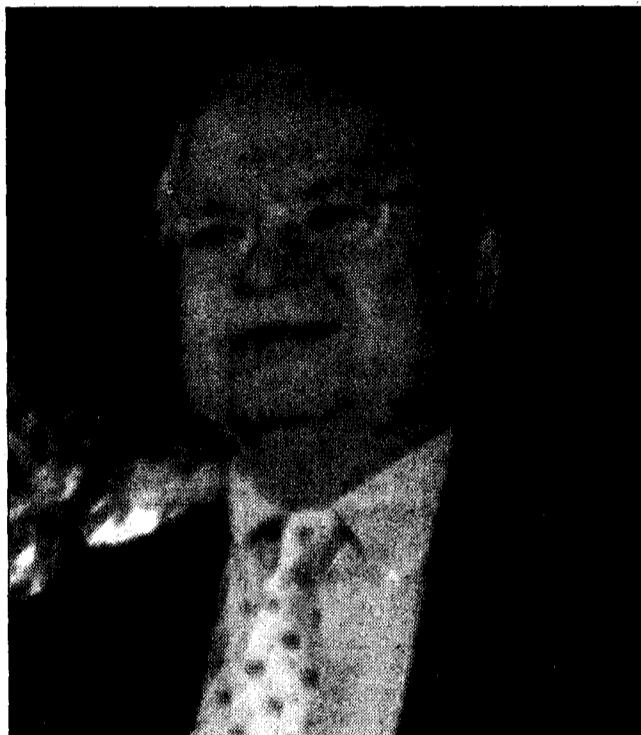
In this interview, he reveals that unprecedented discussions on the new global strategic framework are constantly going on behind the scenes between India and the US. He also hints at high-level visits by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz to India this year and US President George W. Bush's possible visit early next year. Excerpts.

■ How far is President Bush personally involved in the new Indo-US initiative?

This is an objective of the president that I first saw in Austin, Texas in the Governor's Mansion in early 1999. We were there for the first meeting of his foreign policy team with him just as he was beginning to launch on his campaign trail. At that very first meeting he began to talk about the importance of India. I saw this reflected throughout his campaign and then reflected in the decisions since he's taken office. During the campaign he had a major statement on the importance of US-India relations in his foreign policy speech at the Reagan Center.

■ How is he translating the campaign statement into reality?

His invitation to Jaswant Singh to come to Washington early in the administration. There the president met with him. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's kind invitation to the president to visit India was among the very first to be accepted. A new president gets dozens and dozens of such invitations most of which he can't accept for reasons of time and travel. But he accepted the prime minister's invitation almost immediately. That is another indication of his interest in transforming this relationship. Then, of course, it is very likely the president and prime minister will meet in New York.



■ How would you describe President Bush's India policy?

He has big ideas about India, that the US and India work together to transform this relationship. He knows it won't occur overnight. This is a project that won't be finished in a week, in a month or even a year. But he is determined to pursue it. He thinks this is a great opportunity for the US. It will be up to India to decide if it takes this opportunity in the same way.

■ The Clinton administration pursued an active India policy. How will the Bush administration take that forward?

We are already engaging in intensive interaction with the top of the Indian government in an unprecedented way — Robert Zoellick being here. We will have a series of visitors from Washington which will be unprecedented in their seniority. Next will be Ken Dam, the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in mid-September. Then there will be a series of very high-level visits. Under Secretary Marc Grossman will be here before the end of the year for a return visit to meet the foreign secretary here. This administration will no longer say to its Indian counterparts, we'll meet you at Davos or at the edge of Bretton Woods meetings. We intend to engage with India and the Indian elite in India as well as other places.

■ How does the US see India's position in the region especially with regard to its neighbours.

India is first of all not regionally based in a secure way. Of course, the US is interested in the India-Pakistan relationship. But we are not going to deal with India as a hyphenated part of Indo-Pak relations. That will be one of the issues we would like to discuss with the Government of India. But there are many others. Bob Zoellick's visit was indicative. He came to discuss the future of the international trading regime with his Indian counterparts. That is a global issue. It is neither a bilateral nor a regional issue and its in-

dicative of the kinds of issues we want to discuss with our Indian colleagues. Another is what Ken Dam will be talking about, the future of international lending institutions. This is again not a bilateral or a regional issue. It's a global issue. The future of IMF and World Bank is an issue of major debate.

■ What about the regional issues at stake?

The notion here is we don't exclude regional questions from our debate. Of course not. What we will do is expand this discussion on major foreign policy issues. On how the US and India can cooperate to promote peace and stability and prosperity in Asia is another issue we want to talk to our Indian counterparts about.

■ There are fears about India being used against China and that could affect our bilateral ties with the neighbouring country?

This issue comes up often to do with the US and China. Let me be direct and definitive about it. Good relations between India and China are in America's interest as long as they are not directed against the US and there's no sign that that is the case. Good relations between India and Russia are in the national interest of the US as long as they are not directed against the US and there's no sign of that either.

■ What are your goals in pursuing this relationship?

We are pursuing this relationship with India not because of a third country, any third country, but because we believe that 10 years after the end of the Cold War we need to get out of the ruts of the past. So changes will have to occur in the mind in Washington and in New Delhi about how we conceptualise this relationship. It can't be the way we thought about it five years ago. You have to think about it in new ways. We, of course, must understand the history of US-India relationship but should not live in it. US direct investment in India has been flat for the last five years. This is an anomalous situation. We must work together to change this. We need more trade and more investment. The Indian American community in the US is a great asset for furthering bilateral ties.

■ Apart from trade, what do you see as the major areas of cooperation?

In the field of intensified defence cooperate international system, we'll be interested in talking about it. We've already had a visit from the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. Another issue is the future of nuclear weapons in the international system. There's the president's four-part post Cold War strategic framework. There've already been discussions with the Government of India about that. It is a very broad-based agenda, including cooperation on anti-terrorism.

■ How does the US position India in the new global order of which the missile defence programme is a vital part?

As the president has said, it is now more than 10 years after the Cold War and the end of the Soviet Union. The previous strategic paradigm was based on the bipolar nuclear confrontation between the US and the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union no longer exists. We do not regard Russia as a nuclear threat to the US. So it seems that old paradigm that was created in the early 1970s before any of my children were born — they've all graduated from university now — can't possibly be a world map for the future. So we are in discussions with governments about how to change this paradigm to make it consistent with the new circumstances. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage came to India and this is reflective of our interest. I can tell you since the Armitage visit there have been innumerable exchanges between the US and India on this subject. It is not known publicly but they were happening last week in Washington.

INDIAN EXPRESS

9 SEP 2001

Protect Sikhs, U.S. told

19/9
H-13 92nd
W3

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 13. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM), today urged the United States of America to protect the Sikhs there, as some members of the community were reportedly attacked during the last two days.

Reacting to the reported attack on the Sikh community, the NCM Vice Chairman, Mr. Tarlochan Singh, today urged the U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Robert D. Blackwill, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, to intervene.

Mr. Tarlochan Singh said Sikhs were being seen as followers of Osama bin Laden because of their white turban and flowing beard.

"You are well aware that Sikhs are of different religion and have a different identity and they have always been suffering for centuries from the terrorists or invaders from Afghanistan," Mr. Tarlochan Singh said in his letter to the U.S. Ambassador, a copy of which was released to the press.

Mr. Singh said he had received several telephone calls from Sikhs in the U.S. that they were roughed up during the last two days and in some cases even the police detained many turbaned Sikhs.

Urging the U.S. Ambassador's intervention to protect the Sikh

community, he also requested that the people in the U.S. be told through the media that the Sikhs had a separate religious identity.

In his letter to the External Affairs Minister, he said that Sikhs had been at the receiving end even during 1976 when there was a clash between Americans and Iranians, with many mistaking them to be followers of Ayatollah Khomeini and later in 1991 when terrorists bombed the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

The Sikhs were troubled by the Taliban supporters in Afghanistan, he said and urged the Centre to take up the issue with the U.S. Government.

Incidents against Sikhs

PTI reports:

There have been isolated incidents against the Sikh community in New York in the aftermath of the terrorist strikes.

Official sources today said while it was difficult to hazard a guess on what prompted this, it could possibly be Sikhs being mistaken for Arabs. India's Consul-General in New York, Mr. S. Tripathi, is in touch with the city police which has promised to provide additional patrol in areas having Indian establishments, an External Affairs Ministry spokesperson told reporters.

19/9

19 SEP 2001

PM assures full support to US

New Delhi, September 12 12/9

PRIME MINISTER Atal Bihari Vajpayee condemned the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington in the strongest possible words and assured the US cooperation in investigations into this "heinous" crime.

"We stand ready to cooperate with you in the investigations into this crime and to strengthen our partnership in leading international efforts to ensure that terrorism never succeeds again," Vajpayee said in a letter to President George Bush last night.

"Mr President, I am confident that you and the Americans will find the strength to overcome this tragedy," Vajpayee said.

"The people of India share the sense of outrage with the American people.

PTI



AFP PHOTO

Israel's National Security Adviser Major General Uzi Dayan and Prime Minister A B Vajpayee on Wednesday ahead of a meeting at the PM's residence in New Delhi.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
13 SEP 2001

OUR STAND VINDICATED: ADVANI

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 12: Union home minister L.K. Advani said on Wednesday that the terrorist attacks in the United States have vindicated India's assertion that terrorism has emerged as a global threat which requires global response.

Mr Advani expressed shock at the fact that "never before have so many innocent civilians been made the target of annihilation and with such impunity. Yesterday's incidents," he said, "have vindicated what we in India have been saying for a long time — that terrorism has emerged as a threat not just to this country, or that, but as a global threat. Because the danger it poses is global, the response to it also has to be global."

The Union home ministry held a high-level meeting on Wednesday to review security arrangements throughout the country.

In an obvious reference to Pakistan, the minister said: "Leaders of a country have unleashed terrorism against us," and criticised those leaders for "describing terrorists as freedom fighters."

Speaking at the Seventh Delhi Book Fair, the Union home minister regretted that the fair is taking place "in the grim shadow of the terrorist attack in the USA. These bombings are not just an attack on a city, or on a country."

Rather they are an attack on the entire humanity, Mr Advani said.

Terming the attacks in the US as "unforgettable tragedy and something inconceivable, Mr Advani said: "It is only after the World War II that so many people have died in a single day due to a deliberate terrorist attack."

Meanwhile, secretary (internal security) Mukand Behari Kaushal held a high-level meeting of all Central police and security agencies in the North Block in New Delhi in which the security arrangements at all vital installations and sensitive defence establishments and other similar installations like airports was reviewed.

Security has been beefed up and a level of high-degree of alert has been sounded, according to the home ministry spokesman.

Simultaneously, the police commissioners of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai have also been advised to take suitable measures immediately to strengthen security around the US establishments under their respective jurisdictions. Earlier, a security review meeting was held by Mr Advani, which was attended by senior home ministry officials and other officials directly in charge of security and policing.

India offers full cooperation to the US

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Sept. 12: India has offered full cooperation to the United States to find out the perpetrators of the Tuesday's terrorist attacks. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has written a letter to US President George W. Bush, offering assistance in the investigations into the crime and urged the international community to fight unitedly the menace of terrorism.

"We stand ready to cooperate with you (the US) in the investigations into this crime and to strengthen our partnership in leading international efforts to ensure that terrorism never succeeds again," Mr Vajpayee said in his letter. Condemning the terrorist attacks on the US, Mr. Vajpayee

said it is time to redouble global efforts to meet the challenges posed by terrorism which operates without borders.

He said that the incident makes it imperative for all nations to join hands and fight the menace. "It was high time the whole world and

an eye-opener.

New Delhi said that it would fully support the US and the international community in combating terrorism. External affairs and defence minister Jaswant Singh told reporters on Wednesday evening that India was committed

terrorism," he said. Mr Singh hoped that the a comprehensive convention of terrorism proposed by India would be taken up at the United Nations at its next meeting. "International community has to recognise that this (terrorism) is not something they can ignore," he said.

On whether terrorist strikes in the US will strengthen India's stand on terrorism vis-à-vis Pakistan, Mr Singh denied that Indian government had ever demanded that Pakistan should be declared a terrorist state.

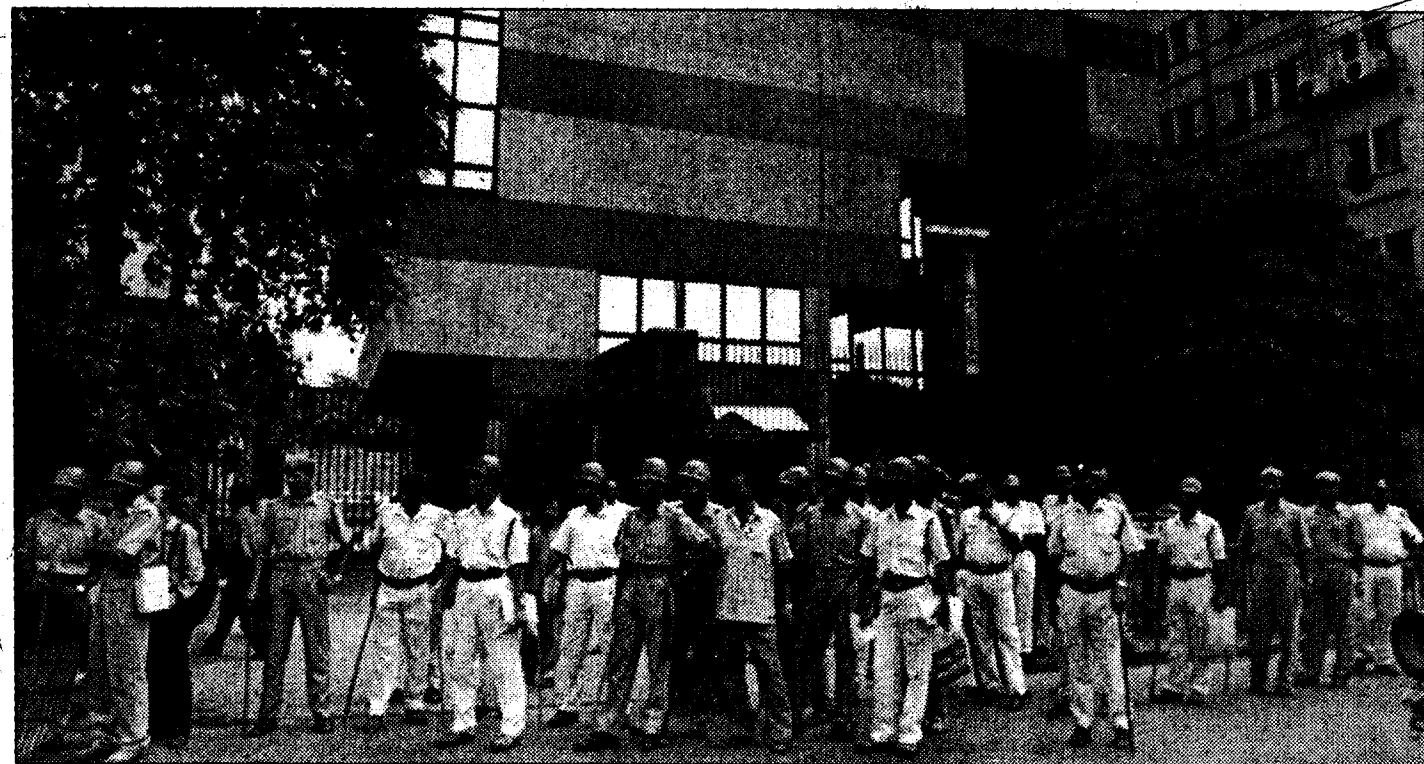
Mr Singh said that it has never been the official stand of the government to club Pakistan in the category of rogue states. He was responding to a question whether India would now press for it following events in the US.

PM LETTER TO BUSH

all peace loving people stood against terrorism and raised their voice against the menace to fight it out," he said in a message on national television network, Door-darshan.

He said India had been raising its voice against terrorism for past many years and for those who had doubted the reach of terrorists, Tuesday's attack should serve as

to fight the scourge of terrorism. "We have travelled this gloomy road of terrorism in the last one decade," said Mr Singh, reiterating India's commitment to take up the issue with the international community. Mr Singh, however, said that India did not believe that terrorism was a religion-specific problem. "India does not believe that Islam is synonymous with ter-



ON GUARD: Police personnel form a security cordon outside the American Centre in Kolkata on Wednesday following Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. (PTI)

US won't target us: Palestinian envoy

BY SEEMA MUSTAFA

New Delhi, Sept. 12: The Palestinian ambassador to India, Dr Khalid el Sheikh, does not feel that the US will target the Palestinians as a direct aftermath of the terrorist attack on New York and Washington.

"Why should they get at us, we are not involved in anyway," the envoy said, adding, "as for Sharon, he does not need an excuse to kill Palestinians anyway."

The vocal ambassador said, however, that the Israelis could further exploit the situation "but this will not help them or the US resolve their problems." He claimed that there had been efforts to link the Palestinian groups with the terrorist attack but "now the world knows we have nothing to do with it." Instead, Dr Sheikh said, "Israel is a terrorist state carrying on terrorist attacks against us."

Dr Sheikh told *The Asian Age* that the US should review its policies in the wake of the terrorist attack. He said that the US had a "moral and material responsibility" towards the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions. He said that the Palestinians had been demanding this and "there should be no conflict between our demand and what the US does."

The envoy regretted that the Bush administration had deviated from the earlier administrations approach towards peace.

He condemned the terrorist attack and expressed the hope that the US would not extend retaliation to countries like Iran and Iraq as this "will aggravate the situation in the Arab countries."

He said that governments all over were watching the situation very closely as the repercussions would affect the region in more ways than

one.

The Palestinian village of Jenin has been surrounded by the Israelis who have surrounded this with tanks, have entered the village, torn down the buildings and killed seven Palestinians, including a 11-year-old girl. Agency reports point out that Israeli forces also entered the villages of Arrabeh and Tamoun.

Israeli officials have been quoted as saying that the world "will not be as patient now as it was before the terrorist attacks conducted and supported by the Palestinian Authority."

The Palestinian officials, on the other hand, have accused Israel of using the attack on the US as an excuse to wield terror in the region.

The peace initiative being brokered by former President Bill Clinton has not been as vigorously pursued by the Bush administration with Israel continuing the offensive against the Palestinian settlers in the region.

THE ASIAN AGE

13 SEP 2001

India extends 'full support'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 11. - As the USA reeled under a series of terrorist attacks, India offered its deepest sympathy and stood by its side to defeat terrorism. It assured all assistance and support at this tragic time.

The Union foreign and defence minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, spoke to the US ambassador to India, Mr Robert D Blackwill, and assured him of additional security to US missions in Delhi and elsewhere and also to other US installations in the country.

The Lt-Governor of Delhi has been asked to personally meet the US ambassador and convey India's "full support" for any kind of assistance and support at this juncture.

Tonight the Prime Minister will be speaking to US

President Mr George W Bush, who is rushing back to Washington from Florida.

As news of the terrorist attack poured in, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee reportedly held consultations with the foreign minister, his principal secretary, Mr Brajesh Mishra, all former Prime Ministers, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr KC Pant, and others.

Late tonight, the Prime Minister convened an emergency meeting of the Cabinet committee of security at his Race Course Road residence and reviewed the security situation in India.

Prior to the CCS meeting, Mr Jaswant Singh had briefed the media outside South Block about the situation. Following the hour long CCS meeting, the minister briefed reporters a second time and once again

condemned the terrorist attack.

Mr Jaswant Singh said: "News from the USA, of the events of the last couple of hours are shocking beyond words."

As India awaited details, the minister didn't want to speculate about the casualty figures especially keeping in mind that most of the investment banks and such offices are located in the World Trade Centre.

He said: "At present all mankind must condemn, in unequivocal terms, this dastardly crime as the victims are all innocents and this crime of terrorism is against all humanity."

It was extremely difficult to get details fast as the telephone lines, the e-mail services and websites stopped functioning.

While offering its deepest sympathy, India said it stood with the US, and the rest of the

NEW YORK. All Indian mission personnel are safe and no injuries have been caused either to them or to the mission's establishment.

The minister has also been in touch with New York to establish any additional details that he could about the strikes against the twin towers.

All airports in the USA have been closed down. When asked about flights leaving India for the USA and those coming from there, the minister said all the airports in the USA have been closed and flights, including those of Air India, have been diverted to Canada.

US in Enron plainspeak

FROM OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Mumbai, Sept. 6: US ambassador Robert D. Blackwill today deftly juggled Enron and Kashmir, laying out his country's different stance on the two festering disputes.

Speaking on the future of US relations with India at a function organised by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Blackwill focused on US displeasure over the Enron imbroglio, which he said had "cast a shadow" on US investment in India.

In the next breath, the envoy affirmed the American "hands-off" policy on Kashmir, urging India and Pakistan to resolve the dispute in consultation with the Kashmiris. He said President George W. Bush had "no blue-

prints" to offer when it came to Kashmir.

Blackwill said the US investors in the power sector, especially Enron, were facing serious problems, "darkening the scope" for foreign investment in the country.

"I want to be frank. There is no doubt that the problems faced by the US companies in the energy sector have cast a shadow on US investment in India," Blackwill said.

The ambassador said he had spoken to some of the top US businessmen and they were not eager to invest in India after seeing the fate of the Enron-promoted Dabhol Power Corporation. According to him, the US wanted all the parties involved in the Enron dispute to settle the issue.

Toeing the Bush administration's line, the envoy said he agreed with the US trade representative Robert Zoellick, who, on a visit to India last month, clamoured that the signed trade agreements be honoured.

On Kashmir, Blackwill said the US wanted India and Pakistan to settle the dispute peacefully, in consultation with the people of the state. He added that the Bush administration was willing to help the countries, without getting involved in the dispute.

Quoting US deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage, the envoy said the US was not going to "impose" any solution on the Kashmir problem.

Praising India's initiative in inviting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf for the Agra

summit, he said high-level engagements by India and Pakistan were essential to bring about a final settlement of the Kashmir problem. He added that the US was not disappointed even though the summit remained inconclusive.

Blackwill said the US agreed with India that it had a special role to play in maintaining stability and peace in south Asia. He said the US, too, wanted to reduce tension and avoid any nuclear conflict in the region.

The US ambassador said the Bush administration was looking to increase military cooperation with India in different areas, including peace-keeping operations. Both countries were also trying to combat terrorism jointly and organise exchange visits of senior military officers.

THE TELEGRAPH

7 SEP 2001

Democrats rally to lift curbs against India

S Rajagopalan
Washington, August 29

CLOSE ON the heels of Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Joseph Biden's endorsement of the Bush administration's plan to lift sanctions against India, another influential Democrat, Tom Lantos, has come out in strong support of the move.

Lantos, the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee, has also written to President George Bush, urging him to act speedily in the matter by exercising his authority to waive the sanctions until the Congress takes action.

Both Biden and Lantos, however, are opposed to the idea of lifting sanctions against Pakistan because of the latter's "poorer record" on nuclear non-proliferation.

Biden had said that by lifting sanctions only against India, the US would be "setting an example for Pakistan".

Announcing his plan to intro-

duce a legislation in the House of Representatives for lifting the sanctions against India, Lantos said the restrictions have outlived their usefulness and are "no longer in the interests of the US".

Lantos also said the non-proliferation issue should not be allowed to stand in the way of engaging India in greater scientific and defence cooperation. Isolation of India will not serve either US interests or the interests of non-proliferation.

The US "is more likely to get further commitments and compliance from India on international non-proliferation and test ban agreements by lifting sanctions and engaging in greater scientific and defence cooperation," he said.

Like Biden, Lantos is a votary of non-proliferation and arms control. While noting that India has failed to adopt the NPT and CTBT, he spoke of the need to keep in view the Vajpayee Government's moratorium on further tests and maintenance of a

strong regime of export controls.

Unlike Pakistan, what clearly tilts the scales in India's favour, is the fact that India has emerged as one of the strongest and most stable democracies in Asia.

Lantos spoke of India making "important strides in improving religious tolerance and human rights both within its own borders and around the world".

As far as the US is concerned, India has "proven itself to be a strong and reliable ally, one that shares our commitment to democracy and diversity," Lantos said.

About Pakistan, Lantos said he was still troubled by Islamabad's relationship with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, as also its acquisition of missiles and nuclear technology from China.

"While I agree that it is important for the US not to isolate Pakistan, I do not believe that a comprehensive lifting of sanctions on Pakistan is warranted or advisable," he said.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

30 AUG 2001

USA mulls lifting of sanctions

SP-1
DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12. — The Bush administration will start working with Congress next month to lift sanctions against India, making way for greater military planning, joint operations and eventual sharing of weapons technology, the *Washington Post* reports in a front-page lead story.

The deputy secretary of state, Mr Richard Armitage told the *Post* that state department officials have held preliminary talks with Capitol Hill and will

13/8
move forward "at a speed visible to the naked eye" to ease sanctions once Congress returns from summer recess next month.

The move will seek to strengthen ties between the two countries and accelerate their evolving military cooperation in various areas, including joint exercises, officer exchanges and coordinated efforts to combat piracy and protect navigation on the Indian Ocean.

"It would give us a wider range of flexibility in moving forward in these areas," said Admiral Dennis C Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific command,

9 ndu-w
which covers India. The cooperation is expected to get a major boost late this year when the two sides resume high-level talks over defence policy and joint operations. "For us to have a sustainable relationship with India, it must be based in and on India and not be a relationship which we try to develop with India to face a third country," Mr Armitage said.

US officials say Washington and New Delhi share a particular interest in ensuring free navigation in Indian Ocean sea lanes. An increasing proportion of Persian Gulf oil

passes along through these lanes, as does much of India's trade.

Military cooperation between the USA and India is stalled by the sanctions imposed after the Pokhran tests. Those restrictions preclude military sales and the transfer of weapons technology to India. The USA has waived some sanctions to allow Indian officers to receive American training, a Pentagon official said. This year, the USA plans to spend \$500,000 bringing Indians here for military education and training.

THE STATESMAN

13 AUG 2001

'U.S. to work towards lifting sanctions on India'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

SAN FRANCISCO, AUG. 12. The Bush administration has said that it will start working with Congress when it returns from its recess next month in the hope of lifting sanctions against India that were imposed in 1998 in the aftermath of the nuclear tests, *The Washington Post* says in its Sunday Editions.

The Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, has told *The Post* that State Department officials had already held some talks with Congress and would make progress in easing sanctions against India "at a speed visible to the naked eye" when law makers return from recess.

The thinking is that once sanctions against India were eased, the United States could expand an evolving military cooperation that would include joint exercises, officer exchanges and dealing with piracy in the Indian Ocean.

On the issue of easing sanctions, the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral Dennis Blair has told *The Post*, "It would give us a wider range of flexibility in moving forward in these areas." High-level talks between defence officials of the two countries are slated for later in the year.

"You've seen some seeds sprouting. With the (upcoming talks) we now have a way forward with these activities," Adm. Blair has said. Also it has to be remembered that the U.S. and India have a mechanism in place for regular exchange of views at the level of senior officials on cooperation in the realm of peace keeping operations.

"Where the rubber hits the road is how do we address sanctions. Both sides will move as fast as they possibly can given the legal considerations we have to work through. There is now a common desire to have a much closer, much better relationship," an unnamed Pentagon official has told the paper.

In the last six months, the Bush administration has made it known that it is keen on picking up from where the Clinton administration left off in the realm of bilateral relations, perhaps even injecting more momentum to the process put in place by a Democratic administration.

As proof of this, there has been a flurry of high

level exchanges in the last several months including an unprecedented meeting at the Oval Office between the Indian External Affairs and Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and the President, Mr. George W Bush. The President dropped by the meeting with the National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and escorted Mr. Singh to the Oval Office for a discussion that went far beyond an exchange of pleasantries.

One perception is that Washington's interests in India has to do with China — that is in a worry here of China challenging American interests in Asia. This has been officially rejected by administration officials who have consistently made the point that relations with India are on their own merits and not pegged to a third country. "For us to have a sustainable relationship with India, it must be based in and on India and not be on a relationship with India to face a third country," Mr. Armitage has been quoted in *The Post*. The argument has been that if Washington is keen on playing down the China factor, it is on account of not wanting to offend New Delhi which has always been eager and proud to show its independence in foreign policy.

The other reason why the Bush administration may not be playing up the China angle is not wanting to start the debate all over about the "containment" of China — an exercise that will prove quite tough not merely in a domestic context but also in managing its relationship with Beijing.

In all the optimism expressed in official quarters on the lifting of sanctions, there are at least two things that need to be kept in mind. First, the talk of lifting the punitive measures against India is confined to the post-1998 sanctions only.

There is hardly any mention of all the restrictive measures that have been in place since the late 1970s.

Secondly, there is concern among Democratic lawmakers, especially in the anti-proliferation group, of India's nuclear and missile programmes. While Capitol Hill will not be placing obstacles in the road to fully lifting sanctions against India, some tough questions will nevertheless be posed.

THE HINDU

11 11 11

India not to compromise on agriculture at WTO, says Ajit

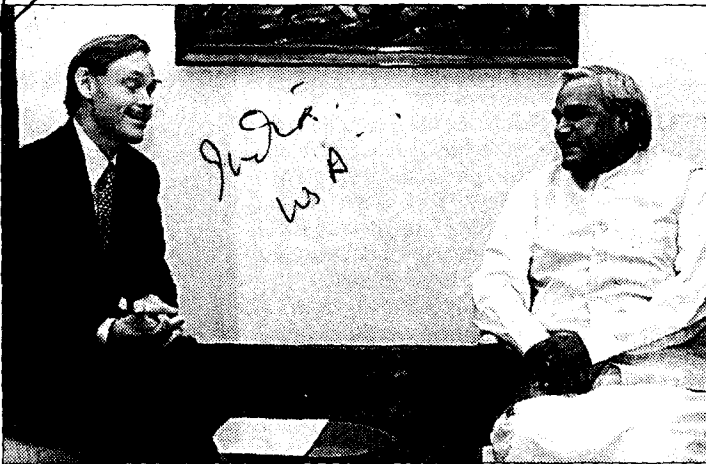
Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI 10 AUGUST

INDIA WILL not compromise on agriculture at any cost at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), agriculture minister Ajit Singh maintained here. Speaking against the backdrop of US trade representative Robert Zoellick's position that India should join a fresh round of negotiations at Doha in November or risk being isolated in global trade negotiations, Mr Singh stated: "There will be no compromise on our stand on agriculture."

Mr Singh pointed out that in either case, there is "no scope" for any compromise on the sector since the extent of domestic support and export subsidy to agricultural goods in developing nations such as India are well below the prescribed ceiling in the WTO.

Reiterating the current stand of the government, the minister pointed out that although it was being prescribed that the developing nations lower their level of support to agriculture, these countries had, meanwhile, hiked their level of subsidy and support to the sector in their turf, besides raising tougher tariff barriers to import.



WITH OPEN MINDS: US trade representative Robert Zoellick (left) talks to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi on Friday. — AFP

This, he pointed out, had ensured that the main intention behind including agriculture in the WTO — that of tipping the scales in international trade in favour of the thus far grossly disadvantaged developing nations and bringing about a balance — had failed to work, necessitating India's insistence that a review of existing agreements, particularly in agricul-

ture, be completed before fresh rounds are initiated.

India has proposed a livelihood box for developing countries in the sector as part of its recommendations to the Doha inter-ministerial meet in November. Given the politically sensitive nature of agriculture in particular, the government can ill afford to be seen as diluting its position at this juncture.

The Economic Times

11 AUG 2001

India may be isolated: U.S.

By Sushma Ramachandran *NDI*

NEW DELHI, AUG. 9. The U.S. today warned that India's opposition to the new trade round of negotiations is likely to leave it out in the cold at the coming Doha ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation. With most countries having decided to engage on issues relating to the agenda of the new round, it hinted that India's unrelenting stance on resolution of implementation concerns may leave it isolated.

Based on talks with several countries, the visiting U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Mr. Robert Zoellick, said the new round was more likely than not to be launched at Doha. He said most countries were now examining the issues to be placed on the agenda and the question mark over the new round seemed to have been resolved.

The USTR who was eulogic in his praise of ancient Indian culture in a speech to captains of industry, was equally scathing in his comment on the rigid opposition to the new round by the present day Government. He stressed that in case the round was not launched, India would lose more than the U.S. which represents 25 per cent of the world economy. With many other countries, the U.S. was already entering into free trade agreements, apart from regional trade arrangements like the APEC and the NAFTA. "Whither India", he said as it is not a member of any of these regional groupings. Mr. Zoellick who already stated prior to his arrival that launch of the new trade round at Doha was his priority, argued forcefully in favour of India using its influence to chart out the agenda rather than wait on the sidelines till the decisions were taken.

Stressing that the U.S. wanted to engage India in a "strategic dialogue" encompassing the full range of

global issues, he said these included areas such as counter-terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation, human rights and environmental protection. On the proposed new round, he said, "I am hopeful that India, a leader in the developing world, will work with us". He termed the new round as a "win-win" for India and said withdrawal would leave the field to others. "The sooner India supports new negotiations, the more influential it will be". *10/8*

The assured that the U.S. would cooperate to address legitimate implementation concerns apart from working on areas of commonality like copyright protection and e-commerce. The two countries could also work cooperatively to thwart efforts to employ labour and environmental concerns for protectionist purposes. *Indo-US*

Mr. Zoellick conceded that the U.S. did not agree with all the issues that the European Union was seeking to put on the table for the new round. The U.S. position was that it wanted to deal with issues of general consensus. At the same time, it was important to understand the public pressure that forced European countries to take a stand on issues like environment. Thus these needed to be addressed in such a way that these did not become converted into excuses for protectionism.

He said that there was a perception in this country that the Uruguay Round had not brought benefits to India. Terming this as "false", he said in the post-Uruguay Round scenario, India's exports to the U.S. had more than doubled and over half of them were duty-free. He also indicated flexibility about possibility of special and differential treatment for developing countries as well as tariffs on certain products lines which were of a sensitive nature.

THE HINDU

10 AUG 2001

U.S. restores duty-free benefits to 42 Indian items

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, AUG. 8. In a move to remove irritants in bilateral economic relations, the United States today announced the restoration of duty-free benefits for 42 Indian goods, while India agreed to set in motion the process for setting up a formal trade policy group for a regular dialogue.

The decision to give the concessions under the generalised system of preferences (GSP) fulfils a longstanding demand by New Delhi to restore the benefits withdrawn for 100 Indian products.

Currently, exports of the 42 goods is estimated at \$ 540 million. These include jewellery, leather and carpet items. The duty-free concessions have been extended under the GSP provisions, a U.S. trade programme that grants duty-free treatment to goods from developing countries.

The grant of duty-free access was disclosed by the visiting U.S. Trade Representative, Mr. Robert Zoellick, after an hour-long meeting with the Commerce and Industry Minister, Mr. Murasoli Maran. The USTR, who also discussed issues relating to the coming ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation at Doha, said that India emphasised the importance of the implementation agenda during the meeting.

Senior officials in the USTR's delegation said implementation issues would be examined on their return as India's concerns

had been well taken. They also noted that the timing of the concessions showed the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush's determination to identify his priorities, and India clearly was a priority.

Implementation issues

Mr. Maran called for a greater political will by the developed countries on the early resumption of implementation concerns which would contribute substantially to restore the confidence of the developing countries in the WTO. Mr. Zoellick assured him that they would actively work with other countries to generate concrete and meaningful results on the issues raised.

Mr. Maran said that India was concerned about including issues such as investment and competition, which would curtail the development options of the South. On the other hand, developing countries needed to formulate foreign investment policies in relation to their development needs and priorities. On the specific issue of a new round of trade negotiations, Mr. Maran said GATT was a forum for continuous negotiations and a separate track of new round was uncalled for now.

Mr. Zoellick, on the other hand, underlined the need to make concrete progress on the agenda for a new round, including agriculture negotiations, with clearly defined time-frames and scope for further liberalisation.

THE HINDU

7 9 AUG 2001

Bush allows \$540 million preferential trade access to India USA gives trade concession

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, Aug. 8. — In a significant concession to boost bilateral trade ties, the USA today allowed duty-free access to 42 Indian products in jewellery, leather and carpet, whose current trade value is estimated to be around \$540 million.

"We have decided to grant about \$540 million of preferential trade access under the Generalised System Provisions (GSP)...and we hope that the reduction in tariffs under these provisions would be able to go into effect by the end of the month," the US Trade Representative (USTR), Mr Robert B Zoellick told reporters here today.

Mr Zoellick, who had an hour-long meeting with the commerce and industry minister, Mr Murasoli Maran, said these reductions would be notified in the Federal register, soon after his return to Washington next week.

The USTR, who is accompanied by five other senior officials said, "this gives us a tangible aspect of trying to improve impor-

tant trading relationship...US is already India's biggest trading partner and the country would like to add more to this".

The GSP is a trade programme of the US government that grants duty free treatment to specified products that are impor-



Mr Murasoli Maran & Mr Robert Zoellick — AP/PTI

ted from over 140 developing countries.

USA had been denying GSP benefits on over 100 Indian products including agricultural, chemicals and pharmaceuticals,

India, on the other hand, had been pressing for restoration of these benefits.

Commenting on the position India enjoys vis-a-vis US, he said, the two sides talked about trade relations — both bilaterally and globally and also in the immediate context of the WTO.

Mr Zoellick said during the meeting, India emphasised the importance of the implementation agenda. "We talked about that as well as the prospects for Doha", he added.

India would have to take its own decisions regarding Doha, he said, adding the purpose of his visit was "more to listen and to learn and to be able to understand some of India's concerns, so that we can bring India and the other 141 countries on board..This (visit) is a step in that process".

Mr Zoellick said "India has much more that it can offer the world as the world's largest democracy. The economic reforms process...I think is producing benefits, and part of that will be India's engagement in the international trading system including the WTO process".

THE STATESMAN

- 9 AUG 2001

US push for sanctions lift

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, July 24: Serious about deepening ties with Delhi, the Bush administration is trying its best to get the post-Pokhran sanctions lifted.

"A review on our sanctions policy is now underway," US assistant secretary of state Christina Rocca said. "We will need to work closely with Congress to see how the current situation might be changed. Getting beyond sanctions would do much to deepen the bilateral relationship."

Despite significant improvement in ties, continuing US sanctions on India has come in the way of expanding relations between the two.

Rocca, here on a visit to acquaint herself with the issues and leaders in South Asia, said the Bush administration was review-

ing its sanctions policy as a whole and also the one that pertained to South Asia. Though she set no time-frame on lifting of sanctions, she said: "I am confident we will work our way through this."

"This is the first step.

Once we go through that, we will look at other measures," she added

when asked about the fate of some restrictive measures clamped before the nuclear tests.

Rocca termed the Agra summit a "good first step and positive development". She asserted that the US position on Kashmir has remained unchanged and Washington had no role to play in the imbroglio. "The Kashmir issue has to be resolved between the parties involved taking into account the wishes of the people of Kashmir," she said. "The US has no role in this."

Rocca, who met foreign minister Jaswant Singh, national security adviser Brajesh Mishra and other senior leaders and officials, said she was not disappointed that India and Pakistan could not come out with a joint declaration. "You cannot resolve differences of 54 years in three days," she said.



Rocca

Asked if the US was in favour of a referendum in Kashmir, Rocca remained elusive, saying: "This is something for the parties involved to resolve themselves."

Rocca maintained that the American position on Kashmir has been "consistent" and pointed out that Washington was hopeful that

India and Pakistan would continue their dialogue. She will leave for Nepal tomorrow and on Sunday is scheduled to be in Islamabad to hold talks with Pakistani officials.

The US assistant secretary of state said the Bush administration was reviewing its policy on "every aspect" and, as part of this, was also trying to delink relations with India from that with Pakistan.

Her comments are likely to be greeted with relief by the Indian leadership. Delhi, for the past few years, had been trying to convince Washington not to see relations with India as a "hyphenated one".

The hint, obviously, was at the past American tendency to club India and Pakistan together while dealing with the region.

India, U.S. to push for broader ties

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, JULY 23. India and the United States today discussed in detail the recent Indo-Pak. summit at Agra and reiterated their commitment to push forward their relationship across a broad front.

During talks with the visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Ms. Christina Rocca, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said India would continue to persist with its dialogue with Pakistan. According to highly-placed sources in the Government, the External Affairs Minister pointed out that after the Agra summit, the ball was in Pakistan's court to create the right atmosphere which would encourage a dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad in the future. Pakistan, after the Lahore declaration was responsible for the Kargil and Kandahar crises, he said, adding that the Agra summit had now been followed by the Amarnath blasts. India, however would not be deterred by these "episodic events" in pursuing the peace process with Pakistan, he observed.

Ms. Rocca, on her part, reiterated that the Bush administration had decided to develop a "stand-alone" relationship with India which was de-linked from its ties with Islamabad. She specifically noted that the U.S. was not pursuing a "hyphenated-relationship" in South Asia. Washington, she added, was keen on building its ties with India within the broad framework envisioned by the U.S.

President, Mr. George Bush. Her visit was therefore, a part of a larger U.S. effort to accelerate the momentum which had already been imparted to the relationship after the flurry of recent high level exchanges.

Mr. Jaswant Singh and the National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra had already visited Washington. The Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, and the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, had also concluded successful visits to India.

Ms. Rocca, during her meeting with Mr. Singh, clarified that there was no change in the U.S. stance on Kashmir. Washington fully supported Indo-Pak. talks over Kashmir and was ready for mediation only if the two sides desired. Ruling out a U.S. role, India reiterated its unflinching commitment to bilateralism for improving its relations with Pakistan.

Both sides also discussed the situation in the region, terrorism, developments in Afghanistan and its larger implications to stability.

On the economic side, Ms. Rocca discussed the possibility of expanding U.S. investments in India, especially in the power sector. She discussed with the Power Secretary, Mr. A.K. Basu, the controversy surrounding the Dabhol power project in Maharashtra. The Enron project came up for discussion briefly even during Ms. Rocca's meeting with the Finance Secretary, Mr. Ajit Kumar, this morning.



The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Ms. Christina B. Rocca, with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, at his office in New Delhi on Monday. — Photo: S. Arneja

MONDAY, JULY 23, 2001

TOWARDS NEW INDO-U.S. LINKS

10-12

THE 'STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE' that India seems to be gaining in the foreign policy calculus of the present Bush administration in Washington is gradually becoming conspicuous. Yet even as the U.S. begins to see India as an emerging "world player", the American Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Ms. Christina Rocca, has categorically clarified that there is no question of New Delhi being treated as a factor of relevance to Washington's often-un-easy equation with Beijing. The essentially bilateral complexion of the improving U.S.-India ties has been underlined by her ahead of her visit to South Asia at this time. In a sense, this should help put in perspective any signs of a dramatic upturn in Indo-U.S. defence cooperation. While there is hardly any doubt that the U.S. now tends to look at India in a larger international context of possibilities for "natural" cooperation between the "oldest democracy and the biggest democracy", equally significant is Ms. Rocca's studied note of caution against any notion of an unstated bond between the two. Viewed in this perspective, the discussions that took place during the latest visit to India by the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, mark the beginning of a constructive new bilateral relationship. It has been agreed to define by the end of this year a suitable structure for new and intensified U.S.-India military cooperation. This attracts unusual attention, if only because the bilateral defence ties are being revived now against the context of a lull that set in after India tested nuclear weapons in May 1998.

Beyond the indicated areas of a truly normative military interaction lies a new process of consultations on the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's current plans for an international security framework. In a rarefied strategic ambience, Gen. Shelton and his Indian interlocutors have now discussed the issue of ballistic missile defences too. The Vajpayee administration is

26

reported to be keen on looking at the prospects of being able to participate in a possible U.S. inspired arrangement that might enable New Delhi to obtain early warnings about missile launches in its own external neighbourhood. Such ideas, even if not surreal in scope, seem entirely a matter for the future as of now. However, Gen. Shelton's professional exchanges with Indian officials on the overall missile defence issue appear to be in tune with a notable assertion by Dr. Condoleeza Rice, President Bush's National Security Adviser. She said in a recent interview to this newspaper that "India counts".

A grand design of an enhanced framework of U.S.-India relationship can of course be considered only after the existing sanctions are lifted by Washington. At this stage, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State has not substantively gone beyond reaffirming a known expectation that these sanctions would be removed as soon as possible. While taking note of India's emerging economic profile as an object of Washington's new thinking about South Asia, Ms. Rocca seems to keep in contemporary focus the original non-proliferation context in which certain sanctions were imposed in 1998. Moreover, evincing an abiding interest over the current re-engagement between India and Pakistan, the U.S. has made clear that it is up to these South Asian neighbours to proceed further in their bilateral dialogue and resolve the Kashmir issue by "taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people". Ms. Rocca underscored that this line is compatible with the policy advocated by the previous Clinton administration that Pakistan as also India should respect the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. If these nuances do not reflect any pro-India stance, the U.S. is emphatic in its insistence that it has already ceased to look at the South Asian subcontinent in the Cold War paradigm of zero-sum games.

USA for 'strategic' ties with India

5-13
217
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, July 21. — The Bush Administration has expressed its desire to have "strategic relationship" with India both in economic and security terms, the US Trade Representative, Mr Robert B Zoellick, has said.

At a luncheon meeting with the Union commerce minister, Mr Murasoli Maran here yesterday, Mr Zoellick said: "This relationship obviously is one that the President (George W Bush) thinks is very important for the US. It reflects a number of shifts, the shifts in Europe after the Cold War as well as some changes that have been taking place in India over the course of the decade".

Mr Zoellick, who will leave for India on 6 August for talks with key government officials and those from private sector,

discussed with Mr Maran details of his trip and tried to get an idea of Indian thinking on the desire of the developed countries to launch a new trade round at the ministerial level meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Doha later this year.

Mr Zoellick, who enjoys a Cabinet rank, would be the first Cabinet minister of the Bush administration to visit India. He said the main purpose of his visit would be to "listen and learn".

Asked if he would be talking about Enron in India, he replied with a firm "no". Mr Zoellick explained that he was on Enron's Advisory Council and excused himself from participating in any discussion on the subject. "So, I don't talk about Enron". Mr Maran also renewed India's commitment to economic reforms during the talks.

THE STATESMAN

India, USA to boost military ties: Shelton

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE 518

NEW DELHI, July 19. - General Henry Shelton, the senior-most US military official, said today India and the USA will be increasing cooperation in defence-related activities.

"We will develop a framework for consultations to address strategic, political and military relations and defence cooperation."

General Shelton today met Mr Jaswant Singh, Mr Brajesh Mishra, the defence secretary, Mr Yogendra Narain, and the three service chiefs.

It was learnt that during the meeting with Mr Singh, he appreciated the need for closer ties with India. They discussed regional, global and security issues, including ones related to the recent visit by General Pervez Musharraf, defence sources said.

Assuming the lifting of US sanctions against India, which he said is likely, the US armed forces are preparing the framework for better strategic, political and military ties.

General Shelton also invited the Navy Chief, Admiral Sushil Kumar and the Army Chief, General S Padmanabhan to the United States.

"India is a major power with global interests. We are the two largest democracies and share common concerns in peace, security and prosperity," the General said.

Meanwhile, the Aeronautical Development Agency that is developing the Light Combat Aircraft, has signed a US\$ 3.2 million agreement with an American firm for the marketing of software. The software - Autolay - will be used by Airbus for its next plane, the A-380.

Giving a further boost to make the Indo-US relations stronger and more productive, both the countries have revived the high level civilian forum of the defence policy group.

THE STATESMAN

New structure for Indo-U.S. military ties by year-end

HD-1
20/7
By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, JULY 19. The United States today welcomed the revival of the India-Pakistan dialogue and said a new architecture of military cooperation between Washington and New Delhi would be in place by the year-end.

In a brief interaction with a section of the media here, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, said Washington welcomed the talks as well as the prospects of further interaction between India and Pakistan.

The first head of the U.S. defence forces to come here, Gen. Shelton is also the highest-ranking military official to visit India since the Shakti tests.

The General met the Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, the National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, the Defence Secretary, Mr. Yogendra Narain, and the three service chiefs.

The focus of the visit is on reviving the bilateral military relationship, stalled since the Pokhran tests. But today's discussions went beyond the specifics of resurrecting military ties, and covered developments in South Asia, West Asia, the Central Asian region and the evolving new international security framework defined by Ballistic Missile Defences (BMD).

Referring to international security issues, Gen. Shelton declared that Indo-U.S. ties were not China-centric.



General Henry H. Shelton, chief of the U.S. armed forces, shakes hands with the Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, in New Delhi on Thursday. The Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Sushil Kumar, is also seen. — Photo: Sandeep Saxena

The two sides also took up the controversial subject of BMD. India is looking at participating in an arrangement with the U.S. which can alert it about a missile launch from a neighbouring country.

India reiterated its interest in renewing an institutionalised link-up with the Diego Garcia-based U.S. Central Command, responsible for the Indian Ocean area, and the Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific Command.

New Delhi is looking for a submarine rescue facility from the U.S. Negotiations had preceded the Pokhran tests and India, in fact, had already paid \$50,000 for

the system. On the revival of defence ties, Gen. Shelton said the apex Indo-U.S. Defence Policy Group, which gave higher direction to the bilateral military ties, was expected to meet by December.

The DPG meeting, in turn, was likely to draw up a new mechanism to steer the future course of defence ties.

Gen. Shelton invited his host, Admiral Sushil Kumar, to visit Washington. Admiral Kumar's trip, expected to take place in October, before Gen. Shelton's retirement, is likely to facilitate his interaction with Gen. Shelton's successor.

Sonia happy

By Javed M. Ansari

NEW DELHI, JULY 4. The Congress president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, who returned here tonight, has reasons to be satisfied over the success of her first official visit abroad as the Leader of the Opposition. Not only was she the first Indian leader to meet the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Dick Cheney, in her interactions with influential members of thinktanks, Senators and Congressmen, the Indian Overseas Congress and the media, she managed to portray a new image of herself and the Congress.

Ms. Gandhi's visit has generated a feel-good factor in the party, and many feel it has enhanced her stature and provided a image change for her and the party. "We are now viewed as a modern forward-looking party, which is not only liberal in its economic policy but also a socially sensitive party with a holistic social and political agenda," said a CWC member.

Most partymen believe the exposure has given Ms. Gandhi the much needed confidence and helped shake off her image of a person unable to handle a situation without aides. According to reports, the Congress president not only delivered speeches but also tackled uncomfortable questions with aplomb

with 'success' of U.S. visit

on issues ranging from whether India should have a foreign-born Prime Minister to the iron tangle.

However, the success of her visit from the Congress point of view also lies in the fact that she managed to debunk the BJP's attempts to portray the Congress and its president as being anti-U.S. and instinctively adversarial to the United States. She reiterated her party's commitment to close Indo-U.S. relations that go back to the historic 1982 summit between Indira Gandhi and Mr. Ronald Reagan, and the 1985 meeting between Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Reagan and the Vice-President, Mr. George Bush.

The Congress president also appears to have realised the need to build bridges with members of the Indian community in the U.S. This is a segment on which the BJP had a sort of stranglehold and Ms. Gandhi appears to have made a conscious effort to make a dent by getting them involved in Congress programmes in party-ruled States. During addresses to the Overseas Congress in New York and to the Indian Doctors Association in Washington, she repeatedly urged them to become "partners in progress".

She also managed to clear the misconception in the minds of the U.S. leaders about her

of U.S. visit

party's economic policy. She even nullified the BJP's attempt to portray itself as the only party in favour of reforms. Ms. Gandhi reiterated the Congress' commitment to continued liberalisation and globalisation but within the parameters of a mixed economy. With Dr. Manmohan Singh at her side, she stressed on the theme of economic reforms with social development and cited the example of the Congress-ruled States in this regard.

During the meeting with members of the Bush administration and with the editorial board of *The New York Times*, she said on national issues, particularly those relating to Kashmir, Pakistan and China, the Congress was interested in building a consensus. She supported the Government's decision to invite Gen. Pervez Musharraf for talks, came out firmly against further division of Jammu and Kashmir and spoke of implementing the Shimla and Lahore agreements between India and Pakistan.

By all accounts, each of her five speeches appeared to have gone down well with the audience. However, as she returns to the hurly burly of the political scene here it remains to be seen how she manages to use the confidence gained from her trip in handling domestic issues.

Report on U.S. training in Mizoram denied

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27. The Government today denied media reports that India had cleared way for U.S. Army personnel to receive training in counter-insurgency and jungle warfare at the Vairangte Training College in Mizoram and had given access to them to military bases in the country.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said the reports were "not correct" and there was no such decision taken by India. The spokesperson, however, said last year one U.S. Army official had attended a one-month training at the counter-insurgency and jungle warfare school.

She said when a foreign country makes a request for participating in the training, "we examine it." Media reports here today quoted Lt. Gen. T.S. Shergill, General Officer Commanding 3 Corps, Agartala, as saying that the training to the U.S. Army personnel would be part of an "exchange programme." Reports had said that the Vairangte school on the Mizoram border with Myanmar, has been a highly-protected institute and its opening up to the Americans was creating strong reaction among defence personnel. — UNI

CPI(M) objects to 'U.S. access' to military bases

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) today opposed the move to provide the United States with access to sensitive military installations under the military exchange pro-

gramme. Demanding a "full and open account" of the nature of military cooperation with the U.S., the CPI(M) politburo asked all political parties and democratic sections to join the demand for reversal of the "harmful policy" being adopted by the BJP-led Government.

The party also expressed concern over the announcement by a senior Army officer, Lt. Gen. T.S. Shergill, that the Government was considering giving the U.S. access to the Jungle Warfare Training College in Mizoram. The move, it said, would give the American armed forces access to sensitive military installations in the north-eastern region bordering China and Myanmar.

Referring to the recent remarks of the Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, in Australia, about U.S. access to Indian military bases not being ruled out in the future, the party said: "During Mr. Singh's visit to the U.S., there were sufficient hints that India is willing to consider American requests for access to Indian military installations connected with high altitude training and jungle warfare under the military exchange programme. The forthcoming visit of the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff is expected to finalise the details."

The CPI(M) said the Vajpayee Government was gradually "entangling India into a strategic and subordinate relationship" with the United States and cited the instance of permitting the Federal Bureau of Investigation to open an office in Delhi.

India, important partner: Cheney

191 By Sridhar Krishnaswami *Sridhar*

WASHINGTON, JUNE 28. The Leader of the Opposition and Congress president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, met the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Richard Cheney, today and had a broad exchange of views. The meeting at the White House was described as "cordial and friendly" with Mr. Cheney making the point that the U.S. considered India an important partner and reiterated the President, Mr. George W. Bush's commitment to further ties with India. Mr. Cheney welcomed Ms. Gandhi's visit to the U.S.

Ms. Gandhi and Mr. Cheney are said to have had a brief, substantive conversation on bilateral and regional matters. Global issues came up during the discussion where the two shared perceptions. The coming summit between the leaders of India and Pakistan was also discussed. Ms. Gandhi is reported to have told the Vice-President that she welcomed the summit and that she always stood for the development of friendly relations with Pakistan.

Earlier, Ms. Gandhi addressed a meeting of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, where she lauded Indo-American friendship and said more work needed to be done to further strengthen the relationship.

Ms. Gandhi also touched on the need for peace in South Asia and the importance of confidence-building measures in the Indo-Pakistan summit. She also talked about the great contribution of the Indian diaspora not only to their adopted countries but also to India.

According to a press release from the office of the

29/6
Congressman, Mr. Jim McDermott, also co-chairman, India Caucus, Ms. Gandhi said India was on the verge of a significant change; that there was need to focus on economic liberalisation, political transformation of rural India and social liberalisation.

"Ms. Gandhi's visit has been timed perfectly to give a great boost to the relationship and I am looking forward to seeing this new administration travel to India very soon," Mr. McDermott said in a statement.

The India Caucus luncheon was attended by thirty Members of Congress, consisting of both Republicans and Democrats. Ms. Gandhi said in the course of her address that economic liberalisation, political decentralisation and social empowerment were the three major factors that brought about changes in India.

"Ms. Sonia Gandhi is committed to a strong Indo-U.S. relationship. Her visit gave us an opportunity to hear the Opposition perspective which helps further our understanding of India. It was a pleasure to host her in the United States," said the California Republican law-maker, Mr. Ed Royce, who is also co-chairman of the Caucus on India.

Ms. Gandhi is scheduled to meet the President's National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, today. She is participating in the annual convention of the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin and will be the luncheon speaker at a function organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry where she is expected to outline her perspective and vision on relations between India and the U.S.

[Handwritten scribbles]

Indo-U.S. ties: wrong perceptions

By K. K. Katyal

FD-14

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28. The Government of India had to issue three denials — or clarifications — last week on matters concerning its relationship with the new administration in the United States. The episode pointed, on the one hand, to the high degree of interest shown by the world community in the new equation and, on the other, to the ease with which wrong perceptions could crop up.

New Delhi has no reason to be apologetic about the steps taken to forge close ties with Washington but, at the same time, there is a case for avoiding over-statements and for caution by the foreign policy establishment. There had been no dearth of pundits and analysts who propounded the theory of U.S. pressure on India, right from the moment the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, announced his decision to invite the Pakistan Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, for talks.

The coincidence of the announcement coming a day after the Foreign Secretary, Mrs. Chokila Iyer's return from the U.S. after the foreign-office-level consultations was used as a supporting evidence. Inquiries from the two capitals did not substantiate this theory. But it continued to hold sway so much so that now Gen. Musharraf gave expression to his belief that the Vajpayee invitation was a sequel to prodding by Washington. That the Bush administration was positively inclined towards India and recognised its importance had been evident, of late, especially from the interviews to *The Hindu* by top persons in Washington, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor, and Mr. Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State, but the line on specific matters was yet to crystallise.

The present U.S. administration, as indeed its predecessor, favoured resumption of India-Pakistan dialogue but there had been no occasion to formally convey such a suggestion to India. New Delhi, perhaps, sensed that the U.S. may well initiate such a

move and hence chose to pre-empt it. If at all there was a connection, it was in this context.

India put the record straight, promptly rebutting Gen. Musharraf's suggestion that the invitation was sent because of international pressure. The other two cases, entailing refutations, were, however, avoidable.

Mr. Jaswant Singh's remark (in his capacity as the Defence Minister) in Australia about the U.S. access to military bases in India was not happily worded. In reply to a newsman's query whether the U.S. would be provided access to military bases in India, he referred to the coming visit of Gen. Henry Shelton, a top-level military person, and said: "Military-to-military cooperation is one of the components of Indo-U.S. cooperation. Access to bases...you are moving far too fast yet. Let these things evolve over time."

It lent itself to misinterpretation — which were dismissed by the government as speculative. However, not all among the diplomats, based here, were prepared to accept the clarification. The third denial related to reports that India had cleared the way for the U.S. army personnel to receive training in counter-insurgency and jungle warfare at the Vairangte Training College in Mizoram. Lt. Gen. Shergill, GoC, Agartala, could have done without the statement on the subject, that led to misunderstanding.

China angle

All this came in the wake of the widespread misperception about a China angle in the improvement of India-U.S. ties. Even though Mr. Jaswant Singh had repeatedly asserted that New Delhi's relationship with Washington was not hyphenated with any other country, interpretations to the contrary continued. The Chinese media (but not the government), too, carried stories containing suggestions — considered baseless in New Delhi — that India was sought to be developed into a counterweight against Beijing. Will the U.S. disavowals discourage the speculation?

THE HINDU

100-13

Sonia to meet Armitage today

28/6

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 27. The Congress president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, arrived here today on a two-day visit. One of her first meetings was with members of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans.

During the closed-door luncheon session, Ms. Gandhi is expected to exchange views with prominent law makers and members of the Caucus. Later this afternoon, she is scheduled to meet the Vice-President, Mr. Richard Cheney.

On Thursday, she will meet the National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage. At a luncheon meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry, she will put forth her vision for India and Indo-U.S. relations. She is also expected to participate in a function of the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin, known as AAPI. A session with the media has also been scheduled.

India's National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, is also in



The Congress president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, with the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, in New York on Tuesday. — PTI

town for three days of talks with senior officials of the State Department, the White House and the Pentagon. Among the officials Mr. Mishra is expected to meet

are Dr. Rice and the Deputy Secretary of Defence, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz. Mr. Mishra started off his programme on Wednesday by calling on senior law makers.

PTI reports from New York:

At a joint meeting of the Asia society and the Council for Foreign Relations on Tuesday, Ms. Gandhi criticised developed nations for having failed to keep up the commitment made at the Uruguay round of multi-lateral trade negotiations to provide market access to developing countries. "Developed nations have failed to keep the commitments they made at the Uruguay round of negotiations.

"The rule-based multilateral system of free and fair trade is under attack in advanced countries and an anti-globalisation sentiment is spreading in the West."

On India's economic reforms, Ms. Gandhi said they had created an economic environment conducive to exercising individual initiatives, creativity and enterprise. "We have a large unfinished agenda, especially in tackling problems of governance and fiscal discipline. We shall persevere in our resolve to tackle these issues meaningfully while keeping focus on poverty and social development."

THE HINDU

Pallone asks Bush to support Israeli AWACS sale to India

WASHINGTON: U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone has asked President George W. Bush to support the sale of an Israeli Phalcon airborne warning and control system (AWACS) to India.

Both New Delhi and Tel Aviv want to embark on this sale, but officials in Israel have said they would be concerned if the action damaged the nation's ties with the U.S. Mr Pallone, founder and former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, said in his missive to Mr Bush. Mr Pallone, a Democrat, said he hoped the administration would voice approval of the sale next month when Israeli defence minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer arrives in Washington for meetings with defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other top U.S. officials.

According to media reports, the final decision now lies with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and foreign minister Shimon Peres.

Mr Pallone said supporting the

sale would not only improve relations between the U.S. and India, but would also cut down on India's current dependence on Russia for its military equipment.

He was evidently referring to meetings in Moscow earlier this month between high-ranking Russian and Indian officials where agreements were made for India to purchase 50 Su-30 MKI aircraft from Russia for \$3.3 billion.

In his letter, he told Mr Bush, "I strongly believe that your administration's support for the AWACS sale to India would signal the beginning of a new defence relationship with India. Bridging a new defence relationship would be remarkable given the history of this nation's ties with the U.S. in the past.

Today, India and the U.S. have many similar democratic interests and as a result, both countries could work together well against the threat from a military build-up in China or from rogue nations in Asia that threaten American interests." (IANS)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2001

Indo-U.S. talks on terrorism today

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24. Indo-U.S. cooperation against terrorism is likely to move beyond information-sharing towards institution building, informed sources here say.

The Bush administration is likely to offer assistance to India to set up a "Centre for Counter-Terrorism" at the official bilateral talks beginning in Washington on Monday.

The centre should facilitate the efforts within the Government to coordinate the actions of the various security agencies and effectively implement the national strategy against the forces of terrorism.

Senior Indian officials left early this morning for the third round of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. The two-day session in Washington is the first meeting of the JWG since the Bush administration took charge in January.

The talks are led by the State Department on the American side and the Ministry of External Affairs. The JWG, set up last year, has acted as the principal forum for facilitating bilateral cooperation between the two Governments on counter-terrorism.

Security agencies in India and the U.S. are upbeat on the progress made during the last two rounds of talks and are determined to build upon it. In the third round, India and the U.S. are likely to agree on

an intensification of intelligence-sharing on combating international terrorism. The focus will be on sharing information in real time and in enhancing its operational value.

The two sides are also likely to discuss the implications of a possible use of "special weapons" by terrorist groups. India and the U.S. hope to explore the prospects for cooperation in managing the consequences of the use of chemical and biological agents as well as radiological material by terrorists.

The political situation in Afghanistan is also likely to figure prominently in the talks. New Delhi and Washington find themselves on the same side on international fora on Afghanistan. Officials will also review the implementation of the latest round of United Nations sanctions against the Taliban.

The meeting takes place amid a new political mood in Washington that is bullish on India. The Bush administration is receiving at a high political level this week the leader of the Opposition, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, as well as Mr. Brajesh Mishra, National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister.

Officials are consolidating and expanding bilateral cooperation in a number of areas. Close on the heels of the Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism, another bilateral group on peacekeeping will also meet in Washington.

THE HINDU

10 JUN 2001

'U.S. using India to contain China'

BEIJING: With improvement in Indo-U.S. ties, China's official media has launched a sustained barrage against the U.S. charging it with using India to 'contain' China at a time when Sino-U.S. relations have nose-dived in the aftermath of the recent American spy plane incident.

"It is noticeable that the abrupt warming in Indo-U.S. relations occurred just as a series of difficulties, including human rights conflicts and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, emerged in Sino-U.S. relations," the official *Outlook* magazine commented.

The Chinese official media has taken note of the fact that U.S. President George W. Bush went out of the way to meet with external affairs minister Jaswant Singh at the White House, when Washington's ties with Beijing were severely strained over the U.S. spy plane issue. "It is more than coincidental that the 'unexpected meeting' Mr Bush initiated with Mr Singh at the White House occurred not long after the mid-air plane collision off Hainan island, and at a time when China was protesting against the rude and unreasonable U.S. attitude," the magazine said.

It said while the U.S. announced resumption of military exchanges with India, the Pentagon has declared it would examine U.S.

China military exchanges on a case-by-case basis. Chinese foreign ministry, however, said the growing Indo-U.S. ties would be conducive to regional peace and stability.

"We hope that the development of U.S.-India bilateral relations would be conducive for peace, stability and development in the region," foreign ministry spokesman Zhang Qiyue said when asked to comment on Beijing's stance on the improvement in relations between New Delhi and Washington.

He did not react when asked to comment on the views expressed by the official Chinese media. "It is the U.S. that has been actively promoting Indo-U.S. ties," a recent article said adding "the carrot the U.S. is offering to India is attractive, so no wonder India is tempted to move closer and closer to the U.S."

In order to rope in India, the U.S. first catered to India's "psychological desire to be seen as a world power rather than a second-rate country," it said. The magazine said the U.S. 'sacrificed' relations with Pakistan to pander India, despite breaking the strategic balance in South Asia. Referring to the Bush administration not sending its emissary to Islamabad to consult on the national missile defence system while U.S. deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage visited India, it said "this

was something the Bush administration's predecessors, including the Clinton administration, had not and would not have done."

Further, it said that the Bush administration has no desire to get involved in the Kashmir conflict, and regards the CTBT as 'waste paper' because of its desire to develop NMD. Thus, the two obstacles — India refusing to sign the CTBT and the Kashmir conflict — which blocked the development of Indo-U.S. relations have been preliminarily cleared by the Bush administration, it said.

It also noted that U.S. secretary of state, treasury secretary and defence secretary have once again proposed lifting economic sanctions against India which were imposed after the 1998 N-tests. Another 'device' to induce India to side with the U.S. is the resumption of U.S.-Indian military exchanges, which had been suspended since 1998.

Referring to India welcoming Mr Bush's proposed security framework, the article says that New Delhi's favourable reaction was timely, saving the NMD plan from embarrassment. The article ends by quoting Indian media reports which urged the government "not to fall into a trap set by the U.S." and that "Indo-U.S. relations should not come at the expense of Sino-Indian relations."

(PTI)

HD-13

India, U.S. destined for better ties: Bush

27/6

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 21. "After years of estrangement, India and the United States together surrendered to reality. They recognised an unavoidable fact — they are destined to have a qualitatively different and better relationship than in the past," the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, has said.

Replying to the remarks of the Indian Ambassador, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, after the latter's presentation of his letter of credence, Mr. Bush said several developments had taken place in the world since Mr. Mansingh's last tour of duty in Washington 10 years ago.

"Communist dictatorships collapsed... Democracy took hold and flourished in many countries previously considered to offer it an inhospitable climate. A concept called the internet developed into one of the most powerful tools for communications ever

devised. Just as important, thinking people around the world began to recognise that the ideas of social responsibility and market economies could indeed thrive together," Mr. Bush said in prepared remarks.

"All of these changes prompted both our countries to change much about the way they did business with the wider world. Opening ourselves to the world, to the influence of new ideas, new cultures, and new ways of working led to another change; it is one of the reasons why we have gathered here today," Mr. Bush said.

He pointed to the benefits that came about as a result of this great change — bilateral trade and investment had soared; American and Indian troops working together in peacekeeping missions in such places as Somalia and Haiti and the contribution of the Indian American community. "They now number over one million and, by some estimates, are the most prosperous single

ethnic group in this country," Mr. Bush said.

He referred to the fact that since the time he assumed office, senior officials of India and the U.S. had been in frequent contact both to talk about tragedies such as the January 26 earthquake that struck Gujarat, and to exchange views on matters of international importance.

"Several weeks ago, Prime Minister Vajpayee invited me to visit India. We have yet to settle on a suitable date but let me reiterate what I said then — I am looking forward to the trip," Mr. Bush said. He also said India and the U.S. would not be in agreement with everything, but it was critical to talk openly and honestly about the differences. "As friends, I know that our two nations will not always agree. We will, however, always agree on the importance of talking openly and honestly about our differences and to work together for mutually agreeable solutions."

Bush sees boost in Indo-US ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, JUNE 21



US President George W. Bush has said he looked forward to visiting India in response to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's invitation and stressed the need for building stronger bilateral relations.

"Several weeks ago, Prime Minister Vajpayee invited me to visit India. We have yet to settle on a suitable date but let me reiterate what I said then — I am looking forward to the trip," Bush said while accepting the credentials of the new Indian Ambassador

Lalit Mansingh at the White House yesterday.

Stating that the two countries were committed to democracy and other values, Bush said India and America "are destined to have a qualitatively different and better relationship than in the past".

Recognising the need to build stronger bilateral ties, Bush said, "... after years of estrangement, India and the US together surrendered to reality," - while accepting the "unavoidable fact" of redefining mutual ties.

"As friends," he said, "I know that our two nations will not always agree. We will, however, always agree on the importance of talking openly and honestly about our differences and to work together for mutually agreeable solutions."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Hello, Mr President



Vajpayee on Wednesday had a brief telephonic talk with General Musharraf. The conversation began with Vajpayee greeting him with a "Good morning, Mr

President."

Vajpayee: Good morning, Mr President.

Musharraf: I am not the president, Mr Prime Minister,

Vajpayee: Yes, I know, I was just addressing in anticipation.

Musharraf: Thank you. I accept your felicitation in anticipation.

from the front page

Bush sees boost in Indo-US ties

Bush in his written response to the Ambassador's presentation, recalled Mansingh's earlier assignment in the US and said, during this period the relations between New Delhi and Washington, apart from global developments, witnessed "enormous changes".

On the economic front, Bush said, "bilateral trade and investment has soared last year, for example, it approached 15 billion dollars, making US the largest single investor in India."

He also lauded the contribution of the rapidly growing Indian American community in the US. "They now number over one million and, by some estimates, are the most prosperous single ethnic group in this country," the US President said.

Mansingh, while presenting his credentials, said he considered himself privileged to assume his role as India's Ambassador to the US at a time of major transformation and great promise in the relationship of the two countries.

"The ties between our two countries are manifold and vibrant. Despite the great geographical divide our people are bound by a shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, basic human freedoms, tolerance and pluralism. Anchored in these natural affinities, our ties have been enduring and have withstood the vicissitudes of historical evolution and political changes over several decades," he said.

On globalisation, Mansingh said, the phenomenon had ushered in new opportunities. "It has

also brought us many challenges whose solutions require joint approaches. One of these is the scourge of international terrorism."

The setting up of the India-US Working Group on counter-terrorism and forum for dialogue on Afghanistan, he said, are important steps in containing this menace, adding the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations is also a reflection of our common desire to foster peace.

Mansingh was one of the nine ambassadors who presented their credentials, the others including Ambassadors of Bangladesh and Burma.

Meanwhile, India today continued to adopt a cautious approach to General Pervez Musharraf taking over as Pakistan's President saying it has to deal with the government of the day in Islamabad.

"We have to deal with the government of the day," an external affairs ministry spokesperson said in response to questions on India's reaction to developments in Islamabad yesterday.

"We have never stated that we will not talk to Pakistan "whether or not the military was ruling, she said.

New Delhi also made it clear it did not want to score debating points with Islamabad when its reaction was sought on an official Pakistani statement regretting Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's assertion that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

INDIAN EXPRESS
SUNDAY EXPRESS

Violence against religious minorities in India alarming: U.S. report

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 19. In a development that will be of interest to India and the ruling BJP, the Chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Mr. Elliott Abrams, is moving to the White House. Mr. Abrams will be a Senior Director in the National Security Council dealing with such issues as democracy, human rights and international organisations.

Mr. Abrams is a staunch and influential Republican with strong conservative credentials; has been a member of the Reagan administration and was the former Assistant Secretary of State. As the Chairman of the Commission on International Religious Freedom — established by Congress in 1998 — Mr. Abrams presided over findings that were not just critical of religious freedom and functioning in totalitarian regimes but in democracies like India as well. "...the increase of violence against persons and institutions based entirely on religious affiliation is an alarming development in India," the Commission maintained.

"The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has directed its attention to India in the light of the disturbing increase in the past several years in severe violence against religious minorities in that country. The violence is especially troubling because it has coincided with the increase in political influence at the national, and in some places, the State level of the Sangh Parivar, a collection of exclusive Hindu nationalist groups of which the current ruling party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, is a part," the Report of May 2001 said.

One of the core aspects of the 2001 Report as it pertained to India was that while there was the acknowledgement of the country's religious diversity, there was also the call on the Bush administration to pressure the powers that be in India to come to terms with violence against members of religious minorities. Specifically, the Commission took note of the fact that the violence against the Christian Community has increased dramatically in India since January 1998.

"The U.S. Government should make clear its concern to the BJP-led Government that virulent nationalist rhetoric is fueling an atmosphere in which perpetrators believe they can attack religious minorities with impunity," the Commission said.

Aside from saying that Washington should press India to allow official visits from government agencies dealing with human rights including religious freedom, the Commission called on the U.S. Government to allocate funds from its foreign assistance programmes for the promotion of education on religious toleration and inclusiveness in India.

The Commission led by Mr. Abrams also pointedly made reference in its Report to the fact that every effort was made to travel to India to examine the situation first hand, but that permission was not granted.

"After meeting with India's Ambassador to the U.S. in December, the Commission was assured that enquiries would be made to New Delhi, but nothing more has been heard in official channels," the Report said.

THE HINDU

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2001

A NEW PARADIGM FOR INDO-U.S. TIES

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION is eager to widen the frontiers of an increasingly vibrant engagement between the United States and India. Noting that Washington has already begun to perceive India as a friend in the changing global strategic environment, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, has raised visions of laying a fast track for intensified interactions between the U.S., the oldest democracy, and India, the largest democracy. The most significant aspect of the glimpses of new possibilities in the U.S.-India relationship is that the Bush administration will seek to refrain from being "judgmental up front" about New Delhi. Openly outlining for the first time an authoritative framework for the U.S.-India equation in the present circumstances, Mr. Armitage has told this newspaper that "we need to get beyond the post-98 sanctions" that were imposed on New Delhi in the context of its nuclear arms testing in that year. It is not easy to imagine a snapshot of the state of the Indo-U.S. relationship in the context of a total removal of sanctions. Yet, Mr. Armitage deserves praise for broadly visualising the big picture of the future in answering the fundamental questions about New Delhi's place in the Bush administration's world view. He is looking at the goal of a "sustainable" and "credible" U.S.-India relationship that will not induce New Delhi and Washington to lean on each other for their own separate interactions with China and Pakistan.

By appearing to portray as still not clear what New Delhi openly hinted at as a firm inclination to support Washington's current plans for a controversial missile defence system, Mr. Armitage may be going by his own conversations with the Vajpayee administration in this regard. For good measure, these "consultations" have indeed been elevated to the status of a dialogue between "one great power" and "another". If India has not really endorsed the grand design of a proposed missile defence system, it is now clear that New Delhi has recognised the need for

such a new strategic framework with worldwide implications. Mr. Armitage is pleased that India is not only receptive to the Bush administration's ideas on "counter-proliferation" but also keen to welcome Washington's move to reduce its offensive nuclear arsenal as might be considered necessary. On non-proliferation, the other aspect of a four-dimensional strategic order being envisioned by Washington now, Mr. Armitage does not mince words about America's diplomatic challenge of not casting aside the treaties, which have found a large international acceptance, while seeking to assess India's strategic expectations in this connection. For the present, the U.S. does not seem to have calibrated how India should be treated over the so-called benchmarks of such treaties regarding nuclear weapons. However, the unambiguous U.S. message is that a regime of American incentives and disincentives in this sphere could be jettisoned in respect of India.

19-10 19/6
The present dynamics of the U.S.-India security dialogue, replete with profound strategic concerns, mark a subtle shift from the bilateral consultations during the final months of the previous Clinton administration. The old linkage between New Delhi's non-proliferation behaviour and the India-oriented U.S. sanctions of 1998 is now fast disappearing. Mr. Armitage is looking to a future beyond these sanctions. While this may not be indicative at this stage of any possibility of a definitive U.S.-India strategic bond, Washington says it has no intention of breathing down India's neck in regional diplomacy. It is a sign of realism that Washington is "not going to get in the middle of (the Kashmir dispute)". Moreover, while the U.S. wants to fashion a new equation with Pakistan unrelated to any regional or global strategic considerations unlike in the past, Washington is also keen to avoid viewing India as a potentially countervailing frontline state against China. It is for India to make the most of its strategic autonomy.

THE HINDU

U.S. NOT TO GET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE KASHMIR DISPUTE

Bush administration to intensify ties with India: Armitage

By Malini Parthasarathy

WASHINGTON, JUNE 17. The Bush administration has made it clear that it does not intend to wade into the effort to resolve the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and that it has "the greatest admiration" for both the Prime Minister, Mr. Vajpayee, for having invited General Musharraf for discussions in Delhi and for the Pakistani General for accepting that invitation. In an indication of a more cautious approach to the subject by Washington, a top-ranking administration official, the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, said here: "On the question of Kashmir, the U.S. is becoming even more sensitive to the subtleties and difficulties around the resolution of the issues..." He added that while the proposed meeting of Mr. Vajpayee and General Musharraf would present "the beginning of a solution", the solution would "not be one imposed from the outside" and that "it's not going to be that the United States is going to get in the middle of it".

Faster pace

In an interview here in his office at the State Department, the first such interview to an Indian publication by a senior member of the Bush administration since it took over, Mr. Armitage made clear that under the direction of the new U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, U.S. relations with India would be deepened and the pace of the intensifying engagement between the two countries would be quicker than before. But equally significantly, Mr. Armitage stressed that the U.S. was eager to craft a newer and qualitatively better relationship with Pakistan that would not be tied to any strategic calculus. The Deputy Secretary of State whose recent whirlwind tour of Asia to explain the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's proposals on missile defence, included a stop in New Delhi was also emphatic that the envisaged new warmth between the U.S. and India was not at all meant to prop up India as a counter to China.

Asked in what way would the Bush administration be different in its approach to India from the Clinton administration, Mr. Armitage said: "It took them (the Clinton administration) seven years to get to the point that Mr. Bush has gotten to in two months or so..." He recalled that over a year ago as a Presidential candidate, Mr. Bush had said that one of the "emphases in foreign relations" that he was going to have as President was the "development of a congenial, mutually beneficial relationship with the world's largest democracy." One major indication of the different approach by the Bush administration would be the unshackling of the dialogue on the contentious issue of nuclear nonproliferation from the fetters of sanctions.

Further, the security dialogue would be moved into a more urbane realm, with ideas such as "incentives and disincentives" as instruments of the U.S. attempt to bring India around to its point of view, being jettisoned. "Quid pro quos, negative or positive, are not a good way to do business," Mr. Armitage said. "We will try to put our views forth in a reasonable way and we will try to engage our Indian friends in good conversation without making it seem that we are so judgmental upfront." Asked whether the new administration's intention



to approach the issue differently meant less of the insistence that had marked American policy in this regard hitherto, on an adherence to various regimes of nonproliferation such as the CTBT and the FMCT, Mr. Armitage was more forthcoming on the promise of removing sanctions. "I have said publicly that we need to get beyond the post-98 sanctions. I think we will, with the support of the U.S. Congress. We want to do that and we will do that... and there are other sanctions which we will have to work with Congress over time to remove those as well."

But in regard to whether the emphasis would move from requiring an adherence to various regimes of nonproliferation, Mr. Armitage was more qualified in his response. Asked whether these regimes were now on the backburner, in terms of U.S. strategic goals, Mr. Armitage maintained that "some of them remain relevant... we don't want to do harm to our larger nonproliferation goals so we have to approach it carefully with good justification. We do not want to wither away somewhat effective international tools, the NPT and other things... so this is one of the difficult challenges of diplomacy... we don't want to give up our traditional nonproliferation tools."

Security dialogue

Asked whether the security dialogue and the joint working group on counter-terrorism would continue, Mr. Armitage confirmed that they would. There had been a "broadening of interlocutors" both in India and the U.S. as regards the security dialogue which was already underway as reflecting in his own discussions with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, which represented "a beginning for this administration of a security dialogue" which the Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, hoped "to continue with him", the forthcoming visit of the National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, at the invitation of his U.S. counterpart, Dr. Condoleezza Rice. Mr. Armitage was also categorical that the notion that New Delhi had endorsed the proposed NMD was wrong and he also rejected the idea that India's countenancing of such proposals would augur ill for South Asia where an arms race could consequently begin and

where a China-Pakistan axis could develop. "First of all, I would not say that the Government of India endorsed the NMD... and I wasn't there to try to get an endorsement... I was there as a beginning of a consultation from one great power to another..." He also observed that the exchange of gestures between Mr. Vajpayee and General Musharraf was the "type of thing that will prevent possibly and certainly impede arms races."

Not a counter to China

As to the idea that India was allowing itself to be set up as a countervailing force to China, Mr. Armitage emphasised that while "we see China as a competitor" not in the negative sense but in terms of seeking more markets, "we want to have a friendly relationship with China..." The relationship with India, he said, could not "be based against China... if it's going to be sustainable, if it's going to be credible... if it were directed against China, no one in India would have confidence that it would last." Asked whether in the lexicon of the Bush administration, New Delhi now counted as a friend or a potential friend, Mr. Armitage said "there's no question that we see Delhi as a friend, not a potential friend... and we've always been able to have forthright straightforward discussions even if we have different views, and that's the best sign of friendship I can imagine." He did note that during his discussions in Delhi on the NMD proposals, he found "a good deal of interest" after the "concept of counter-proliferation" was explained. He also found that while the Indian Government expressed the hope that the U.S. would not act unilaterally on its proposals for missile defence, New Delhi "expressed a great deal of understanding of the need."

New approach to Pak.

Mr. Armitage dwelt at length in his conversation on the desire of the new administration to build a better relationship with Pakistan that would not be ill served by any linkages to other strategic considerations, be it Afghanistan or anything else. "For years, we had an unbalanced policy in South Asia... people would look at it superficially and say we had a great relationship with Pakistan but it was in a way a false relationship because in the first instance it was built against the India-Soviet Union axis and then latterly it was against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan... so we didn't have a policy for Pakistan, we had a policy with Pakistan directed against something else... what we are desirous of is for our Pakistani friends to try and develop a relationship about Pakistan." He noted that the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar, was arriving in Washington for discussions with the new administration. Asked whether Pakistan would be expected to demonstrate more credibility in its assurances on cooperation in regard to the problem of Osama Bin Laden and the Taliban, Mr. Armitage said, "I don't want to see Pakistan only through the lens or prism of Osama Bin Laden. This is my point. We want to look at Pakistan and see what Pakistan thinks about its future..." He said that the administration was working out a new approach to Pakistan, "in my view, for the first time, a relationship with Pakistan."

Details on Page 14

We need to go beyond the post-98 sanctions: Bush official

189-14
1876

WASHINGTON, JUNE 17. Mr. Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State in the Bush administration, has a role in the new administration's making of foreign policy that goes beyond that of a mere deputy to the Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell. Known to be a close associate of Mr. Powell, Mr. Armitage himself is one of the leading ideologues who have helped fashion the worldview of the new Bush presidency. During the Bush election campaign, Mr. Armitage was a member of a close-knit team which called itself the "Vulcans" after the Roman god of metal and fire, which hammered out the foreign policy platform that Mr. George Bush took with him into the presidential election. That exclusive group of foreign policy ideologues included the National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

INTERVIEW

Mr. Armitage who also served in the administration of the President's father, Mr. George Bush Sr., is one of the key voices in this administration currently shaping the U.S. policy towards Asia. On Friday last, he sat down in his office on the seventh floor of the State Department for a conversation with Malini Parthasarathy on U.S. policy towards India, Pakistan, China and how the new Bush strategic framework would impinge on these issues. Here are excerpts from that conversation:

Malini Parthasarathy: When you say that the Bush administration is going to put much more meaning and content into the relationship with India, what exactly is the point of departure from the approach of the Clinton administration to India?

Richard Armitage: I don't care to speak about the previous administration but my view is that it took them seven years to get to the point that Mr. Bush has gotten to in two months or so... Mr. Bush said as a candidate over a year ago that one of the emphases that he was going to have in foreign relations was the development of a congenial, mutually beneficial relationship with the world's largest democracy, and for the world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy to have a relationship is perfectly normal... and we have the basis for that relationship, we both are multiethnic multireligious societies, both democracies, we are both federations.

The Indian American community is a growing and exciting part of our population, they have great political organisation skills, the hitech industries exemplified by the fantastic activities around Bangalore and in our three Silicon Valleys here are a very good basis on which to move forward...

Second, India, at one time, historically, had a very broad view of the world... Indian ships ranged far and wide... India had a global view, not just a regional view but a global one. We believe India will be having a global view again... there are several nations in the world who really truly have a global view and we think India is about to have that...

Were you very surprised, maybe please

"Our view of the relationship with India is that it cannot be based against China or for that matter, against anyone else if it's going to be sustainable, if it's going to be credible, if it's going to be politically sustainable at your home and in mine..."

antly surprised, that the Indian Government was so warm about the NMD?

Well, it's not NMD, it's MD... it's not national, it's an important distinction, I was not so surprised, the reason was that on the question of the unilateral reduction which we were suggesting, if necessary, this is in line with the stated policy of the Indian Government, on the question of nonproliferation... that is well known to the Government of India... the question of counter-proliferation was not as well known but once it was explained, the Government of India... we will continue to...

On the question of actual missile defence, the fourth element is one on which we didn't get an immediate endorsement because the Government of India said they hoped we would not do this unilaterally — that means break out of the ABM treaty — but they expressed a great deal of understanding of the need...

Given that the Republicans and the Bush administration have repeatedly expressed themselves against the idea of disincentives (in U.S. nuclear nonproliferation strategy) and an insistence on adherence to the various nonproliferation

regimes (such as CTBT and FMCT), would the premises of the security dialogue shift? Would the security dialogue continue as happened earlier between Mr. Strobe Talbott and Mr. Jaswant Singh? Would counterproliferation or missile defence become the centrepieces of the security dialogue?

We hope to have some cooperation... I felt that my discussions with the Minister of External Affairs was a beginning for this administration of a security dialogue and certainly my Secretary (Mr. Colin Powell) hopes to continue that with him, we are about to enjoy the visit of the National Security Advisor (Mr. Brajesh Mishra) who

"The United States is taking the lead in providing international assistance... these are things that concern us and we can't ignore them when we deal with Pakistan but I don't want to have a relationship with Pakistan based on another issue like Osama or Afghanistan..."

comes here at the invitation of Dr. Rice (Dr. Condoleezza Rice) and I look forward to see Ambassador Mishra again myself... so in a way we've already started the security dialogue, it doesn't have to be held by the same person every time... it's broadening out the interlocutors we have both in India and India has with us here...

In what way will the premises of the dialogue really change? Will India see fewer strictures on the need to adhere to nonproliferation regimes?

Well, we still have in the United States nonproliferation concerns and certainly hope that the manner in which we go about achieving nonproliferation goals will change a little bit. I have said publicly that we need to get beyond the post-98 sanctions, I think we will, with the support of the U.S. Congress. We want to do that and we will do that. And then there are other sanctions which we will have to work with Congress over time to remove those as well...

There are some apprehensions in India that the Government of India's endorsement of the broad principles of the NMD would accelerate a China-Pakistan axis and an arms race in the subcontinent... your own statement there... "you have problems in your own neighbourhood" ...in the context of naming North Korea and Libya, could you expand on this a little bit as to what you really meant in terms of Pakistan's own role in the region and what are the implications of this for India and Pakistan?

First of all, I would not say that the Government of India endorsed the NMD, those are your words, certainly not mine...! And I wasn't there to try to get an endorsement, I was there as a beginning of a consultation from one great power to another... and the consultation was an exchange of views and I, in return, got India's views on certain issues...

Now, on the question of an arms race, we haven't had discussions about a strategic framework. I don't think a discussion

between one country and another brings forth an arms race... Tensions, misunderstandings... these things bring an arms race...

What has happened in the wake of my visit, not because of my visit, Prime Minister Vajpayee, right before he went to have his knee operated on, extended a hand to General Musharraf who accepted it. A remarkable gesture! Seems to me that's the type of thing that will prevent possibly and certainly impede arms races. We are pleased that General Musharraf has accepted this gesture by Prime Minister Vajpayee... I don't know how far they'll get... we hope for the best.

Your statement on Pakistan... what exactly was meant?

Well, I repeated that statement in the *Financial Times* that we have some concerns and I have spoken to Pakistan about that but I also want to make clear to you that it is not a private statement but a public statement. For years, we had an unbalanced policy in South Asia and people would look at it superficially and say we had a great relationship with Pakistan but it was in a way a false relationship. Because in the first instance, it was built against the India-Soviet Union axis and then latterly, it

was against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. So we didn't have a policy for Pakistan, we had a policy with Pakistan directed against something else, what we are desirous of is for our Pakistani friends to try and develop a relationship about Pakistan... as you probably are aware, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sattar is coming, we look forward to discussions with him...

Would you expect them (Pakistan) to be more forthcoming on Afghanistan and be more credible in their assurances on cooperation on getting Osama Bin Laden?

I don't want to see Pakistan only through the lens or the prism of Osama Bin Laden...

This is my point. We want to look at Pakistan and see what Pakistan thinks about Pakistan's future... obviously Osama, the Taliban, the refugee problem... millions of Afghans are suffering terribly now... the United States is taking the lead in providing international assistance... \$24 million last year... these are things that concern us and we can't ignore them when we deal with Pakistan but I don't want to have a relationship with Pakistan based on another issue like Osama or Afghanistan...

So, what would be the strategic approach to Pakistan now?

We are developing it, we are in the process of working it out, in my view, for the

"We have the greatest admiration for the Prime Minister of India reaching out and inviting General Musharraf for a discussion and frankly for General Musharraf for accepting and that's the beginning of a solution."

first time; a relationship with Pakistan.

You mean no longer looking at it in terms of Afghanistan...

A relationship... in and about Pakistan. There are implications about Afghanistan but is not based against something. It's about trying to get a relationship with Pakistan... you would certainly agree with me that 140 million people in Pakistan deserve good governance...

So you will talk about democracy in Pakistan...?

We are proud of democracy and there's a democracy right next door to Pakistan called India, how can you not talk of democracy? Of course we have to talk about democracy...

Now on another aspect of this, India has always wanted to be taken on board the international approach to Afghanistan, India has wanted to be taken more seriously in the collective effort to formulate strategic and practical political approaches to the situation in Afghanistan, did something like that come up when you spoke in Delhi?

Well, I certainly spoke about it, obviously our discussions were private in nature but I spoke about it and my counterparts in Delhi also spoke of that, I am not going to expose to you the inner workings of our discussions. We have some concerns... all of us... and there is a brand new concern since I returned from Delhi, the wearing of distinctive clothes for Hindus, non-Muslims...

In the earlier scheme of things, India and the U.S. had a joint working group on counter-terrorism, will that process continue during this administration? Or would the strategic premises of this process also change?

I don't think so... on counter-terrorism, the problems are basically the same... we have to share views, share appreciations of the problems and discuss efforts that we may make unilaterally or together or with others as well to better the situation...

This is an often-asked question but in India there is concern that the Government of India is allowing itself to set India up as a countervailing force to China particularly as the U.S. strategic approach to China since your administration took over has become much sharper, more focussed and more critical than under the previous administration...

First let me say that we see China as a competitor, now that's not a negative word, we can seek more markets... these are good things... and we want to have a friendly relationship with China, I met with the Chinese Ambassador yesterday and explained this to him... On India, our

view of the relationship with India is that it cannot be based against China or for that matter, against anyone else if it's going to be sustainable, if it's going to be credible, if it's going to be politically sustainable at your home and in mine... then it has to be about the U.S.-India relationship and not directed against China... if it were directed against China, no one in India would have confidence that it would last.

The impression was fortified when you included India in your whistlestop tour of friendly Asian capitals... does it suggest Delhi is coming into the category of "friends" in your "friends and allies" formulation, not an ally, but a potential friend...

I think there's no question that we see Delhi as a friend, not a potential friend... and we've always been able to have forthright straightforward discussions even if we have different views, and that's the best sign of friendship I can imagine... it was not appropriate that I go to China given the state of our relationship at the time for missile defence consultations... but we didn't overlook China. Mr. Kelley (James Kelley, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs), my colleague here did go to Beijing and have discussions there...

In the new context, given the four elements of the new strategic framework, is there going to be a bigger focus on counter-proliferation than perhaps nonproliferation, or the regimes of CTBT or FMCT, in your nuclear dialogue with India?

You've got four elements, and at any one time, one element may be dominant, for instance if we are exchanging information about some exports of technology that could be used in proliferation, that might be the most important element of our strategic framework at that moment and we

decide what we can do about it together, for it or against it and at another time it might be traditional nonproliferation which may be more important... so there are four elements, any of them can be dominant, depending on the situation. I must say I found a good deal of interest in Delhi after the concept of counterproliferation was explained...

Does all this mean that the FMCT and the CTBT, are all on the backburner now? The insistence on adherence to nonproliferation regimes?

...No, well, some of them remain relevant... this is one of the subtleties about moving forward with sanctions against India, we don't want to do harm to our larger nonproliferation goals so we have to approach it carefully with good justification. We don't want to wither away somewhat effective international tools, the NPT and other things. So this is one of the difficult challenges of diplomacy... we don't want to give up our traditional nonproliferation tools...

But will you do it in a different fashion?

I think we will put forth our arguments in a little different manner.

Will there be less of disincentives and more of incentives in the U.S. nonproliferation strategies?

Well, I don't think I like either of those terminologies... I think there would be more reason in the discussion. My own view is that quid pro quos, negative or positive, are not a good way to do business...

We will try to put our views forth in a reasonable way and we will try to engage our Indian friends in good conversation without making it seem that we are so judgmental upfront...

On Kashmir, the policy commitment that the issue is to be left to a bilateral resolution between India and Pakistan remains, doesn't it? What are your expectations in a general sense of the forthcoming India-Pakistan summit and its possibilities?

I think on the question of Kashmir, the U.S. is becoming even more sensitive to the subtleties and difficulties around the resolution of the issues... we have the greatest admiration for the Prime Minister of India reaching out and inviting General Musharraf for a discussion and frankly for General Musharraf for accepting and that's the beginning of a solution.

But it won't be one imposed from the outside and it's not going to be that the United States is going to get in the middle of it.

Indo-US joint ventures to shift focus to biotech

S Rajagopalan
Washington, June 10

AFTER IT, biotechnology may well be a new focus area of Indo-American economic cooperation. The US has signalled its keenness on a new agenda that features biotechnology, genetics, energy, agriculture and defence production.

During talks with US officials, a delegation of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) informed that a biotechnology mission would indeed be visiting in August-end to hold road shows here and in Kansas and North Carolina.

Ahead of that, a high-power IT mission, led by Information Technology Minister Pramod Mahajan, is coming here towards the end of this month. At a time of economic slowdown here, the mission's focus

is on IT outsourcing from India. The team, with representatives from 12 Indian companies, will also be travelling to New York and Orlando in Florida.

The CII delegation, led by Sanjiv Goenka, has completed what it regards as a "highly successful visit". Apart from meeting Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, it called on Under Secretaries Alan Larsen and Grant Aldonas, Assistant Secretary for South Asia Christina Rocca, leaders of the India Caucus and top officials of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation.

During the discussions, a subject of American concern was the languishing US exports to India.

With Indian exports to the US steadily growing, the US has run up a trade deficit of \$8 billion with India. The Indian del-

egation, notably CII's director-general Tarun Das, emphasised the need for American exports to become competitive by focusing on pricing.

American officials also voiced some concern over the unresolved Enron controversy and its adverse impact on foreign direct investment flows from the US. The CII delegation, however, apprised them of Prime Minister Vajpayee's recent instructions to speedily resolve the issue.

In the light of the new-found confidence in Indo-US relations, Goenka and his predecessor Arun Bharat Ram said CII would have a larger focus on the US.

An Indian IT mission is coming here later this month. It will be followed by a biotechnology mission in August and one on Indian systems of medicine a month later.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

U.S. assessment cheers Israel

By Kesava Menon

216
MANAMA (Bahrain), JUNE 6. Senior officials of the United States have given an assessment to Israel that the Indo-U.S. relations have improved vastly and this will have a significant impact on Asian strategic affairs. The briefing has cheered Israel, as it feels there could be a boost to its sale of weaponry to New Delhi. Progress, if any, on the deal to sell Israel's Phalcon airborne warning systems to India will be taken as confirmation of the positive prognosis that has been tentatively made.

HO-14
The U.S. officials, participating in a meeting last week of the Forum for Strategic Cooperation with Israel, were reported to have focussed on the improved Indo-U.S. relations. The U.S. delegation was headed by Mr. Lincoln Blumfield, Assistant Secretary of State for Military Affairs, while the Israeli side was led by Mr. Amos Yaron, Director General of the Defence Ministry.

A report in *Haaretz* says that the Israelis "listened and made notes" when the U.S. delegates delivered their dissertation on the improvement in relations with India, but "were careful not to speak up about it."

The Israelis appear to have independent confirmation of the U.S. assessment. They are aware of similar assessments made by many in the subcontinent that the U.S. administration views India as key nation in Asia and a possible counter-weight to China.

The U.S. officials were also said to have expressed satisfaction with the Indo-Israeli cooperation and the same message was reportedly delivered to Israel's National Security Adviser, Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, when he visited Washington recently. Maj. Gen. Dayan, nephew of the legendary Defence Minister, Mr. Moshe Dayan, visited India last month.

Israel has reasons to be happy about the improvement in Indo-U.S. relations. It has been trying to sell to India the Phalcon airborne early warning system. But, as the collapse of the agreement to sell the system to China showed, this deal cannot go through if the U.S. puts its foot down.

India is interested in purchasing one Phalcon and having an option on another but is asking for a political guarantee from Israel that the agreement will be sealed and the system delivered, *Haaretz* reported.

India's purchase of the land-based Green Pine anti-missile radar system built on the technology similar to the Phalcon was not blocked by the U.S. and some parts of this system were reportedly sent to India in January this year.

The Defence Secretary, Mr. Yogendra Narain, during his visit to Israel last month, went to the Elta facilities where the Phalcon system is manufactured and also heard reports on the project at the Israel Aircraft Industries headquarters in Lod. Tel Aviv had informed Washington last year about its interest in selling the Phalcon system to New Delhi but it did not meet with unqualified approval from the Clinton administration.

The Bush administration's favourable views on India, which were supposedly promoted by New Delhi's support for the NMD initiative, have not necessarily led to a definitive approach to the Phalcon issue. *Haaretz* cited the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Martin Indyk, as having said that the Chinese Phalcon incident had made tangible the difference between the approach and view-point of a super power and that of a regional power that wants to sell weapons to other regions of the world. "Both sides learnt that this was a matter that had to be dealt with openly and that is what has been done since," he is reported to have said.

At the political level, the Israeli Defence Minister, Mr. Benjamin Ben Eliezer, is reportedly keen on a Phalcon deal with India. He believes that he can persuade the U.S. to give its approval when he visits Washington next month. However, the Foreign Ministry is supposedly worried about the reaction of the Chinese when they see the Phalcon that was initially built for them being flown by the Indian Air Force.

Officials of the Israeli Foreign Ministry concerned with South Asian affairs told *The Hindu* a few months ago that considerations which applied in the case of the Phalcon deal with China that the system might be used against U.S. troops if the Taiwan situation went out of control simply did not apply in the case of India.

The Indian Phalcon deal has, apparently, not yet reached the level of the Prime Minister, Mr. Ariel Sharon, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres.

7 26 23

7 26 23

US Senate power shift may affect India

BY ASHISH KUMAR SEN

San Francisco, June 5: Republican Senators are set to hand over the reigns of power to their Democrat colleagues in the Senate on Tuesday. As majority leaders became minority leaders and committee chairmen ranking members, congressional analysts say the changes in the Senate could have serious consequences for India.

The power shift in the Senate comes as a consequence of a surprise decision by Vermont Republican Senator Jim Jeffords to tip the balance of the evenly divided Senate by leaving the Republican Party and becoming an Independent.

Of paramount importance to Indo-US relations is the handing over of the gavel in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from pro-India North Carolina Senator, Jesse Helms, to an India skeptic, Delaware Democrat Joseph Biden.

"Senator Biden belongs to a school which puts nuclear non-proliferation above everything else," an analyst told *The Asian Age*. Mr Biden, who is projected by the liberal US media as an "internationalist" in contrast to Mr Helms, portrayed as an "America-firster", will in no way be helpful to India because of his predilections as a nuclear non-proliferation hawk.

"When he talks about the futility of sanctions against India there is an undercurrent of connecting these sanctions to India yielding to American diktats on the nuclear issue," a source said.

Senator Biden, a ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, announced last week that he would become chairman of that committee rather than the judiciary committee. In his new role, Mr Biden will be able to put the brakes on President George W. Bush's foreign policy agenda.

Even though Mr Biden calls himself an internationalist, sources say he doesn't want to acknowledge India as an emerging power. "This is what is troubling," said a congressional source.

Some commentators have glibly noted that Senator Helms had been anti-India because he had backed the Khalistanis and supported the role played by Pakistan in the Afghan issue when the Soviets had occupied Afghanistan. Mr Helms' change of heart, to being pro-India, is now complete.

Though he posed passionate questions when India conducted nuclear tests under the nose of the CIA in May 1998, Senator Helms has since realised the importance of the tests from New Delhi's point of view and the necessity to curb Chinese hegemony.

Sources say one of the most common mistakes Indian analysts, journalists and diplomats tend to make is that they embrace every liberal as a friend of India and have difficulty accepting any conservative as a friend. They attribute this to "superficial understanding" of the inner motives which propel US politics. The pro-India line-up in Washington — Christina Rocca as

assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, anti-China deputy secretary of defence Paul Wolfowitz and Zalmay Khalilzad in the White House national security council — has been thrown off track by the shift in the Senate. Analysts say India will now suffer because of "obstructionism" in the Senate. Diplomatic analysts, who have followed Mr Biden's foreign policy practices vis-à-vis India, are concerned about the manner in which two of his key staff members will approach Indo-US ties.

When he talks about the futility of sanctions against India there is an undercurrent of connecting these sanctions to India yielding to American diktats on the nuclear issue'

One of these staffers is an Indian-American who essentially hates the idea of the Indian-American community lobbying on India's behalf. "He can be expected to be hostile to India's interests," the diplomatic analyst said.

The other, with academic orientation, "doesn't know the intrinsic realities of Indian politics and the complex factors that determine the future of Indo-US relations."

While North Carolina, Senator

Helms' home state, has a significant and a wealthy Indian-American presence, especially in the research triangle area, Mr Biden's home state Delaware is a smaller state where there is no substantial Indian-American community and therefore, no leeway for the community.

Compounding India's problem on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will be the switch in the chairmanship of the subcommittee on Near East and South Asia from Sam Brownback to a bleeding heart liberal Minnesota Democrat Senator Paul Wellstone known as one of the most "unpredictable" legislators on Capitol Hill.

The shift in the power structure in the Senate must prompt New Delhi to rethink its choice of lobbyists in Washington, D.C.

Its present lobbyist, Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand, was essentially hired, at a cost of \$800,000 (Rs 37,600,000) a year, because of former Kansas Republican Senator Bob Dole and his connections in the Senate. The validity of this lobbying firm in a Senate dominated by Democrats will now become questionable. New Delhi will need to hunt for a lobbying outfit that has strong ties with the Democrats in the Senate and the Republicans in the House of Representatives if it wants to protect its interests.

Meanwhile, congressional insiders warn that the Senate will be a victim of political instability in the days to come. According to certain

scenarios whispered in the corridors of the Senate, although the gavel may pass on to the Democrats on Tuesday, it could soon be back in Republican hands if speculative reports that New Jersey Democrat Robert Toricelli (another anti-India legislator) is forced to resign because of corruption charges come true. In such a case, the Republican governor of New Jersey will appoint a Republican to replace Mr Toricelli.

Another ongoing drama involves presidential aspirant Arizona Republican Senator John McCain, who according to some may quit the Republican Party to become an independent and position himself to run as an independent candidate against President Bush in the 2004 election. Then there is the act of God that has to be contended with. South Carolina's 98-year-old Republican Senator, Strom Thurmond, seems barely able to sustain his daily routine in the Senate these days. In the eventuality that he is forced to resign his seat (or worse), South Carolina's Democratic governor would replace Mr Thurmond with a Democratic Senator.

Further influencing the swinging pendulum of fortunes is the possibility that two Democrats, Zell Miller of Georgia and John Breaux of Louisiana, both conservative Democrats, may bolt the Democratic Party to either join the Republican Party or become independents.

"Jim Jeffords has opened a can of worms in the Senate," a congressional analyst concluded.

THE ASIAN AGE

Larry Pressler welcomes PM's invitation to Pervez

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore, June 1: Senator Larry Pressler, famous for the "Pressler Amendment" which blocked US aid to Pakistan, on Friday welcomed Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's initiative for talks with Pakistan Chief Executive Pervez Musharraf.

"It is unfortunate that India and Pakistan have not resolved their dispute. The entire world wants an end to the conflict between the two neighbours," Senator Pressler told reporters here, after addressing the students of the prestigious National Law School of India University.

Mr Pressler is in Bangalore for the annual general body meeting of the city-

based global IT major, Infosys Technologies. He is a member of the board of directors. When asked whether the United States could play a mediatory role in resolving the dispute between the two countries, he said that it would be better if the talks are held bilaterally.

"I don't really think this can be solved by people from outside the region," Mr Pressler disclosed.

"There is a yearning in the world that India and Pakistan should settle their disputes somehow. This they will do some day, sooner rather than later," he said.

Mr Pressler, who has been advocating a free trade zone between the two democracies, was apprehensive that Indian trade unions would not welcome such a move.

THE HINDU

1001